

LOOKING FOR GANDHI

Ahead of Mahatma's 150th birth anniversary,
travelling from Ahmedabad to the Capital —
from a bookshop to a weavers' colony



NAND GHAR, BRINGING CHANGE IN LIVES OF MOTHER AND CHILD.



Desh Ki Zaroorat Ke Liye

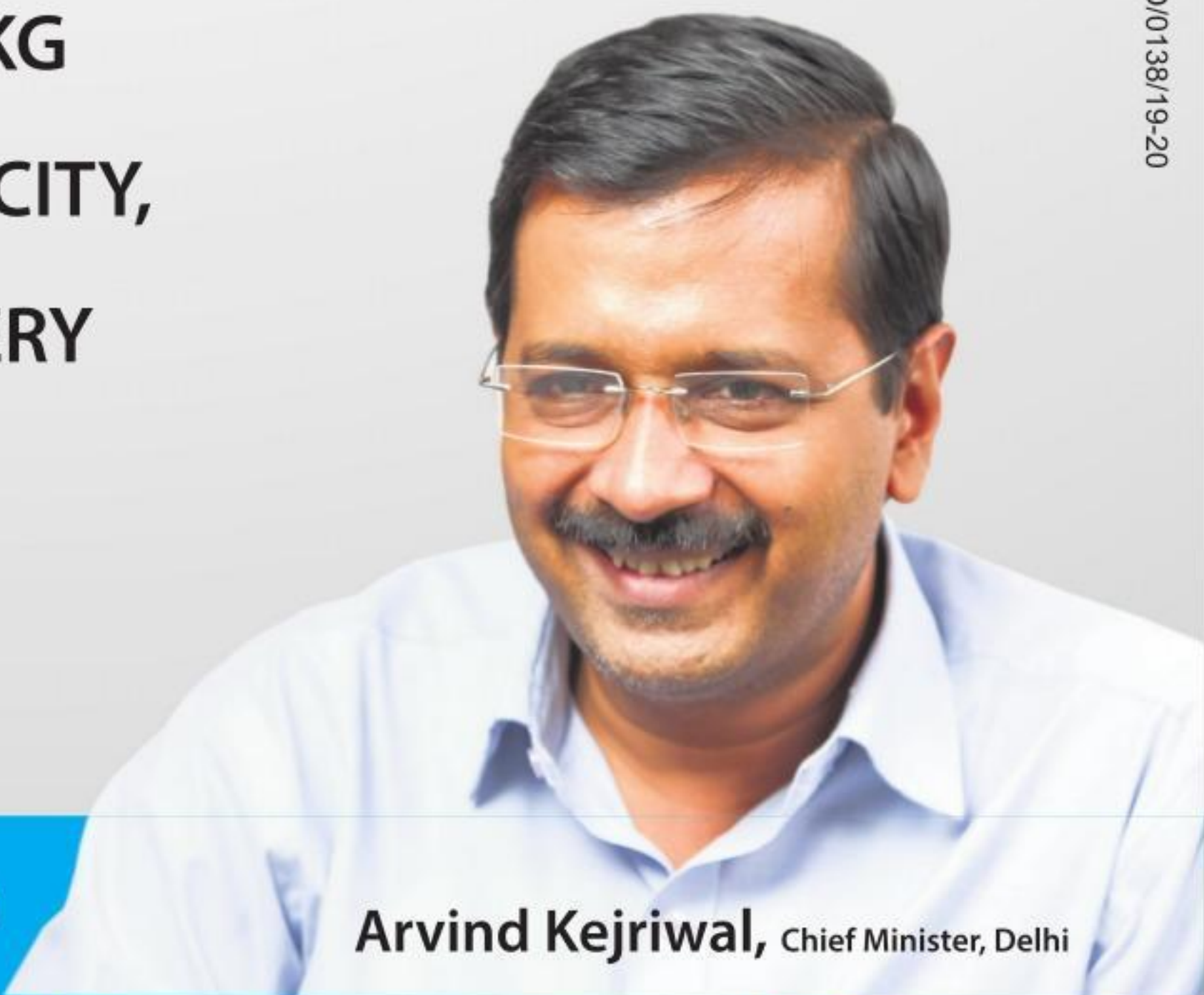
Nand Ghars are state-of-the-art modern Anganwadis. They are equipped with 24x7 solar electricity, safe drinking water and clean toilets. Through standardized e-learning for kids, nutritious meals, healthcare for all and skill training to empower women, Nand Ghars are making lives better for mothers and children.


DELHI GOVERNMENT WILL SELL ONIONS AT LOW PRICES

ONIONS
₹ 23.90
PER/KG

HOARDING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

ONIONS WILL BE SOLD AT ₹ 23.90 PER/KG
AT 390 FAIR PRICE SHOPS ACROSS THE CITY,
AS WELL AS IN ONE MOBILE VAN IN EVERY
ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY





eye

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS
MAGAZINE

LOOKING FOR GANDHI

Ahead of the Mahatma's 150th birth anniversary, travelling from Ahmedabad to the Capital — from a bookshop to a weavers' colony

SUNDAY STORY

PAGE 13

A bite of the apple

As Centre takes over its procurement in bid to restore 'normalcy' in Kashmir, will apple suffer for the first time due to Valley insurgency?




BIG PICTURE

PAGES 14-15

Bhateri & Kids

Amidst the medical debate triggered by a woman in her 70s giving birth, going back to a 75-year-old and her twins, now 9



US police officer who won right to wear turban shot dead in Houston

THE NYT & EXPRESS
NEWS SERVICE
HOUSTON, JALANDHAR,
SEPTEMBER 28



Sandeep Dhaliwal

A SIKH sheriff's deputy in Texas who garnered national attention for gaining permission to wear a turban as part of his uniform, was killed Friday near Houston in what officials described as an ambush during a traffic stop.

Maj. Mike Lee of the Harris County Sheriff's Office said that the deputy, Sandeep Dhaliwal, made the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

'PAK PM'S NUCLEAR THREAT IS BRINKMANSHIP, NOT STATESMANSHIP'

Crude hate speech, medieval mindset: India tears into Imran's UN address



EXPRESS IN U.S.

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 28

HOURS AFTER Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan repeated his nuclear threat against India

and warned of a "bloodbath" in Jammu & Kashmir, New Delhi, in a sharp response, said Indian citizens did not need others to speak for them — and definitely not those who had "built an industry of terrorism from the ideology of hate".

"Pakistan's virulent reaction to the removal of an outdated and temporary provision that was hindering development and integration of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir stems from

the fact that those who thrive on conflict never welcome the ray of peace. While Pakistan has ventured to upstream terrorism and downstream hate speech there, India is going ahead with mainstreaming development in Jammu and Kashmir," India said.

"The mainstreaming of


CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

RELATED REPORTS
PAGE 11

IDEA EXCHANGE

'AGAINST ANYTHING THAT DIVIDES'
GAUTAM GAMBHIR
PAGE 12

WORLD



TRUMP-UKRAINE SCANDAL: POMPEO SUBPOENAED

PAGE 27



PM being welcomed back in Delhi on Saturday. Praveen Khanna

Teacher's 'Ramanujan' test now Sangrur's showpiece

RAAKHI JAGGA
SANGRUR, SEPTEMBER 28

IN DECEMBER 2013, with the board exams approaching, a mathematics teacher from a government high school in Benara village of Punjab's Sangrur district had a brainwave: organise a test for students of Class 9 and Class 10 of his school to spark interest in the subject.

The teacher, Devi Dyal, discussed the idea with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



Devi Dyal in class. Gurmeet Singh

TRACKING CHANGE

EVERY SUNDAY

www.indianexpress.com/change

BASHAARAT MASOOD & ADILAKHZER
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28

SOON AFTER Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan PM Imran Khan finished their speeches at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), protests broke out in several parts of Srinagar, prompting authorities to re-impose restrictions on Saturday morning.

Towards afternoon, a grenade was lobbed at CRPF personnel in downtown Srinagar, but it missed the target. The CRPF issued a release on the attack, making it possibly the first militant strike acknowledged by the forces since the August 5 scrapping of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



Concertina wires return in Srinagar Saturday. PTI

Justice Ramana's Bench could hear Art 370 petitions beginning Oct 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

A FIVE-JUDGE Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Justice N V Ramana will likely hear from October 1 petitions challenging the Constitutional validity of the amendment to Article 370 revoking the special status for Jammu and Kashmir, and the re-organisation of the state into two Union Territories.

Supreme Court sources

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

Look out for 54 Pages of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways notification with today's issue of The Indian Express

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & ATRI MITRA
BASIRHAT, HINGALGUNJ, SEPTEMBER 28

HUSSAINUR, 5, is scared his mother will die like his father. Three brothers are afraid they will meet the same fate as their sister who died after a heart attack. A daughter says they are fast running out of money, with father without work and mother dead.

In the panic triggered by rumours of a National Register of



Khairun says her sons afraid she will die too. Partha Paul

Citizens (NRC) exercise in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

1ST INDIA'S TOP DEVELOPER 2019
TRACK2REALTY BRANDXREPORT 2018-19



PASSION AT WORK

SOBHA NAVOTSAV IS BACK. BIGGER AND BETTER.

Celebrate this Navratri with more excitement and enjoy great deals & offers.
An exclusive opportunity for homebuyers to own their SOBHA Home.
Wait no more, join the elite SOBHA Family!

ENJOY GREAT OFFERS AND BENEFITS

29TH & 30TH SEPTEMBER 2019 | 5TH & 6TH OCTOBER 2019

MEET US AT SOBHA SALES GALLERY, SEC - 108, GURGAON | 10 AM - 7 PM

OWN YOUR HOME WITH 30:70 PAYMENT PLAN

ENJOY SAVINGS OF UP TO ₹28 LAKHS

BOOK BY PAYING ₹3 LAKHS ONLY

MEGA BUMPER PRIZE FOR ONE LUCKY WINNER



Chintels Metropolis, Sector-108
Gurgaon



gurgaon

CALL +91 88009 93066, +91 124 470 6666

SMS SOBHA TO 56677 EMAIL SALES.NCR@SOBHA.COM

Scan for details



DOWNLOAD APP

■ VISUAL STORIES

■ DAILY BRIEFING

■ PODCASTS

■ CUSTOMIZABLE NEWS EXPERIENCE

Indian Express

★★★★★ 4.6

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP

Express Stream

Visual stories from across the world

Today's top news

Virat Kohli reclaims top position in ICC Test Batting Rankings

Indian skipper played Australia's Steve Smith again to return back to the No. 1 position in the ICC Test Batting Rankings

WEB EXCLUSIVE

IN ASSAM, AN ANCIENT FUNERAL EPIC IS BEING RECORDED FOR THE FIRST TIME
Performed from memory, the Kecharhe Alun is a significant death ritual of Assam's Karbi tribe. The oral epic has never been properly studied, recorded, or documented — until now.

VIDEO OF THE DAY

PITRU PAKSHA RITUALS
The 16-day period of Pitra Paksha ends Saturday

FULL COVERAGE

J&K: THREE MILITANTS KILLED IN ENCOUNTER
Five armed militants took refuge inside a civilian's residence

EXPRESS AUDIO

India's war against plastic

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode of the 3 Things podcast, we look at the problems caused by plastic, to what extent it is possible to replace it, and the steps the government is now planning to take against it.

FROM PAGE ONE

Houston officer

stop at 12.23 pm local time (10.53 pm IST), and that nothing appeared to be out of the ordinary. The deputy was speaking with the driver for about two minutes, Lee said during a news conference, and was headed back to his car when the driver came out brandishing a gun, ran up from behind and shot Dhaliwal in the head. The shooter was later arrested.

Gloom descended on Dhaliwal's native village Dhaliwal Bet in Punjab's Kapurthala district as news reached of his killing. The 42-year-old police officer and father of three had kept a close touch with his roots, and last visited the village in January this year. He was due to come again next month.

Houston police identified the gunman as Robert Solis, 47, who had an active parole violation warrant for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon from 2017. A weapon believed to be used in the shooting was recovered. A woman who was with Solis in the car was also taken into custody.

Solis has been charged with capital murder. There was no word on a possible motive for the shooting.

Dhaliwal had garnered national attention in 2015 after the

sheriff's office allowed him to wear the traditional articles of his Sikh faith, including a turban and a beard, while on patrol. In a statement praising the policy shift, the Sikh American Legal Defence and Education Fund had noted that the Harris County Sheriff's Office was the largest in the country to have "a full-time Sikh American officer with his articles of faith intact due to a religious accommodation exception to their dress code policy".

In Kapurthala, cousin Pawanpreet Singh said he had spoken to Dhaliwal just a day earlier. "Sandeep told me he had booked a ticket for October 11 for India. I was to go pick him up from the airport." Talking about Dhaliwal's "considerate" nature, he said he was sponsoring the education of two children in Punjab.

Dhaliwal's uncle Kartar Singh said the whole community took pride in his achievements. Recalling Dhaliwal's childhood, Kartar said he had gone to the US only at the age of 17, with his mother and two sisters. His father Piara Singh Dhaliwal had been living there for some years. "Sandeep studied at the village school and was a very good student. I had enrolled him at Janta College in Kartarpur for 10+1, but he left for the US soon after."

Another uncle, Kuldeep Singh

Sarai, said he would be going to the US to attend Dhaliwal's funeral.

"Even after living in the US and working in police, he was a down-to-earth man and always ready to help the needy," said village sarpanch Yudhvir Singh.

At a news conference, Sheriff Ed Gonzalez praised Dhaliwal as a 10-year veteran of the sheriff's office who "was known to everybody as someone with a giving heart" and who "represented his community with integrity, respect and pride". He recalled that Dhaliwal had organised supplies to be delivered from California after Hurricane Harvey, and had traveled to Puerto Rico to help a colleague with hurricane relief efforts there.

The mayor of Houston, Sylvester Turner, praised Dhaliwal as "a bold and groundbreaking law enforcement officer in the eyes of our county, our state, our nation". "The story of him putting the Sikh imperative of 'seva' — selfless service — on display as a peacekeeper went worldwide. In that role he was a walking lesson in tolerance and understanding, which are values Houstonians uphold here in the nation's most diverse big city."

The Director of the United Sikhs International Humanitarian Aid, Gurvinder Singh, said

Dhaliwal was associated with them. "He was a lion heart, a selfless person and a gift to humanity. He led volunteers of the United Sikhs during several natural disasters in the US and India to help the needy."

'NRC deaths'

Banerjee has claimed 11 deaths. The three families above claim their members are among them, having put up a futile struggle to gather papers, including those showing pre-1971 lineage (the NRC cut-off year in Assam).

The Sunday Express visited the three families, travelling through the Hingalgunj, Basirhat, Hasnabad and Bhangar belt in South and North 24 Parganas bordering Bangladesh, and discovering large-scale fear among villagers, many of whom have come back from other states where they work, to line up before BDO and panchayat offices for documents.

In end August, Muslim organisations had distributed pamphlets, held seminars and asked people in Bengal to keep their papers ready, claiming the NRC might be brought in. Soon after, the BJP had asserted that after Assam, Bengal would see the NRC exercise.

Khairun Nahar Bibi of Sholadana village in Basirhat says her husband Kamal Hossain

Mondal, 32, a brick kiln worker, had been making the rounds of land record and panchayat offices for two weeks. "He wanted to find land papers in the name of his father, who died 30 years back. But he could not find them. He was depressed and ate very little. Day and night he used to say we would be driven out because the NRC was coming. On Saturday night (September 21) too, he kept saying those things, watching news of political leaders talking about the NRC in Bengal."

On September 22, Mondol was found hanging from a mango tree, leaving behind wife Khairun and two sons. Cries Khairun, "My younger one shouts at me every time I even touch a document. He says if I touch the papers, I will die too."

Mondol's elder brother Hasan says his death has devastated them. "He was the smartest of us all and the whole family was depending on him to get the papers... I think he felt sad that he could not save the family."

Police recorded an unnatural death case. A senior Basirhat police officer, who didn't want to be named, said, "Internal inquiry is on, we are looking at the NRC angle."

Twenty kilometres away, in Gajipara (under Hingalgunj police station), Momena Bewa, 59, went to her brother's house in neighbouring Bankra on September 20 to seek the family's pre-1971 land records. Says Moidul, 32, one of her three sons, "Everyone said we needed such records. When she couldn't find them, there was an altercation between her and her brother, and she fell ill."

Musharaf, 35, says they rushed Momena to a hospital in Basirhat, where she died. Doctors cited the cause of death as 'acute myocardial infarction' or heart attack.

Soon after, local Trinamool Congress MLA Debesh Mondol visited the family and assured help. Police have recorded the statement of the family members.

Standing outside their kucha house with plastic sheets for roof, Moidul says the fear is real. "We do not know what will happen... Some of the family members do not have even an Aadhaar card. With mother gone, how will we trace papers of land?"

In Katakhal, also in Hingalgunj, Taslima Bibi, 47, left behind three sons and a daughter. Tohmina says Taslima and her father Sayeb Ali Gaji had been in panic since the last week of

'Crude hate speech': India tears into Imran's address

Jammu and Kashmir, as well as Ladakh, in India's thriving and vibrant democracy with a millennia-old heritage of diversity, pluralism and tolerance, is well and truly under way. Irreversibly so. Citizens of India do not need anyone else to speak on their behalf, least of all those who have built an industry of terrorism from the ideology of hate."

India's reply, given by Vidisha Maitra, a junior diplomat posted as First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of India at the United Nations, was laced with reference to Imran Khan's surname — Niazi — which he is reluctant to use, because for many in Pakistan, it carries memories of the military defeat in the 1971 war.

Lt Gen A A K Niazi was the Pakistani general who had surrendered to the Indian Army in Dhaka after the Bangladesh war. Shortly after Imran took over last year, the Pakistan Prime Minister's Office had issued a circular saying that his name, Niazi, should not be used in official communication.

"Pogroms, Prime Minister Imran Khan Niazi, are a phenomenon of today's vibrant democracies. We would request you to refresh your rather sketchy understanding of history. Do not forget the gruesome genocide perpetrated by Pakistan against its own people in 1971 and the role played by Lt Gen A A K Niazi. A sordid fact that the Prime Minister of Bangladesh reminded this Assembly about earlier this afternoon," Maitra said, exercising India's right to reply.

On Imran's nuclear threat, India said: "Prime Minister Khan's threat of unleashing nuclear devastation qualifies as brinkmanship, not statesmanship. Even coming from the leader of a country that has monopolized the entire value chain of the industry of terrorism, Prime Minister Khan's justification of terrorism was brazen and incendiary. For someone who was once a cricketer and believed in the gentleman's game, today's speech bordered on crudeness of the variety that is reminiscent of the guns of Darra Adam Khel."

Darra Adam Khel, a town in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, is infamous for its illegal guns bazaar.

Addressing the UNGA on Friday, Imran had said: "What will we do? I ask myself these questions. We will fight, and when a nuclear-armed country fights to the end, it will have consequences."

Taking up on Khan's statement that his government has dismantled the terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan, which could be verified by UN observers, India said: "Now that Prime Minister Imran Khan has invited UN observers to Pakistan to verify that there are no militant organisations in Pakistan, the world will hold him to that promise."

India then went on to pose some questions to Pakistan ahead of the proposed verification, including one on the recent approval for the mastermind of the Mumbai terror attacks, Hafiz Saeed, to get "basic expenses" from the UN Security Council's Resolution 1267 sanctions committee.

"Can Pakistan confirm the fact that it is home to 130 UN designated terrorists and 25 terrorist entities listed by the UN, as of today?" it asked.

"Will Pakistan acknowledge that it is the only government in the world that provides pension to an individual listed by the UN in the Al-Qaeda and Da'esh Sanctions list!

"Can Pakistan explain why here in New York, its premier

bank, the Habib Bank, had to shut shop after it was fined millions of dollars over terror financing?

"Will Pakistan deny that the Financial Action Task Force has put the country on notice for its violations of more than 20 of the 27 key parameters?"

"And would Prime Minister Khan deny to the city of New York that he was an open defender of Osama bin Laden?"

India also took on Imran on Pakistan's record on human rights. "Having mainstreamed terrorism and hate speech, Pakistan is trying to play its wild card as the newfound champion of human rights. This is a country that has shrunk the size of its minority community from 23% in 1947 to 3% today and has subjected Christians, Sikhs, Ahmadis, Hindus, Shias, Pashtuns, Sindhis and Balochis to draconian blasphemy laws, systemic persecution, blatant abuse and forced conversions. Their newfound fascination for preaching human rights is akin to trophy hunting of the endangered mountain goat — markhor," India said.

Every word spoken from the UNGA podium carries the weight of history, India said. "What we heard today from Prime Minister Imran Khan... was a callous portrayal of the world in binary terms. Us vs Them; Rich vs Poor; North vs South; Developed Vs Developing; Muslims vs Others. A script that fosters divisiveness at the United Nations. Attempts to sharpen differences and stir up hatred are, simply put, 'hate speech'."

"Words matter in diplomacy," India said, and "invocation of phrases such as 'pogrom', 'bloodbath', 'racial superiority', 'pick up the gun' and 'fight to the end' reflect a medieval mindset and not a 21st century vision."

started frequenting the BDO and panchayat office. My mother too went with him."

The stress told soon, Tohmina, 22, adds, as Taslima also lost the daily wages she earned as a beedi worker. "There were frequent fights over this. On September 27, after one such fight, mother fell ill. We took her to Basirhat hospital, where she died."

Doctors recorded the cause as cardio-respiratory failure. Police have told the family they are investigating how the death is linked with the NRC.

At the Barunhat Rameshwarpur gram panchayat office 2 km away, there is no let-up in the queues outside. "We are all tense," says Rehman Ali, among those lined up on September 27. "Now there are touts who approach us saying they will arrange the pre-1971 papers. Some of our village folk have been duped."

Helping them fill forms, a youth, one of a group, says, "I used to give tuitions. When the rush started, I thought why not make some money? I fill up all kinds of forms for people... We take whatever we can, not too much. This month has been good for us."

A photocopy cum 'cyber cafe' centre beside the panchayat office is also bustling with business. "We earlier used up a bunch of papers (500) in a week. Now two such bunches get used up in a day," says owner Surpiyo Das. He informs that there are technical glitches with the Electors' Verification Programme (EVP)—one of the rumours doing the rounds is that the EVP will pave the way for the NRC in the state. "The Election Commission server hangs frequently, and in a day only four-five people succeed."

On the second floor of the panchayat building, Pinaki Das, husband of pradhan Chobi Mondol Das, says they are doing their best to spread awareness that there won't be an NRC in Bengal. "We are holding small meetings in villages. But people are flocking the panchayat office," he says.

At the panchayat office in Hasnabad, 6 km away, a meeting is on between BDO Arindam Mukherjee, officers and zilla parishad members. Says Mukherjee, "On September 9, a mob of over 6,000 people gathered at our office. They almost barged in and the window panes were broken. I had to call in police." Since then, the BDO says, they have decentralised paper work and are letting panchayat offices too accept applications.

Abu Taleb Gazi, a zilla parishad member, says, "We are having a hard time convincing people."

Accusing the BJP of stoking people's fears, Hingalgunj MLA Debesh Mondol says, "These people were born here, their forefathers were residents... I have visited some families who have lost their dear ones. We are with them. Our Chief Minister stands with them."

West Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh says it is the Trinamool Congress that is trying to exploit the situation. "Anyone who commits suicide or has died of a heart attack is being labelled as a person who has died of NRC panic. It is Mamata Banerjee who took out roadshows and highlighted the issue. She is to blame if there is panic."

DELHI POLICE SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

TATPAR

HELP US SERVE YOU BETTER

Himmat Plus App

Senior Citizen

Traffic Sentinel

Missing Person Search

Missing Person Report

Economic & Cyber Offences

Lost & Found App

Police Clearance Certificate App

Tenant Registration App

Stolen Vehicles Search App

Your Traffic Inspector

Towed Vehicle PIT Location

Himmat Plus

Enrollment

Lost Report

Theft e-FIR

Un-claimed Vehicle Search

Missing Person

Missing/Stolen Mobiles

Complaint Lodging

Senior Citizen Mobile App

MV Theft: e-FIR

Stolen Vehicle Search

Police Clearance Certificate (PCC)

Tr

OUR APP

SINGLE TOUCH. MULTIPLE SERVICES.

Over 50 services including, e-FIR, Missing Persons Complaint, Traffic Challan, Cyber Crime, Helpline Numbers, Servant Verification, Website etc. can now be accessed with a single touch

E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.amulyapatnaik@delhipolice.gov.in | Write to: CP, Delhi at P.O. Box. No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

DP/9/158/19

The Indian EXPRESS

Classifieds

FROM ANYTHING TO EVERYTHING

EXPRESS EDUCATION

LAW AMBITION LAW INSTITUTE

SESSION FOR DJS MAINS

A special session for DJS MAINS is scheduled on 30th Sep. i.e. Monday, 2:30 pm at Mukherjee Nagar Branch. Don't miss it as the strategy to clear mains would be dealt exhaustively by Director Mr Alok Kumar Ranjan. Willing candidate may register ASAP on 8800660301

DJS MAINS TEST SERIES

Just after test there will be discussion on answer

3 Oct. Civil Law-I 5 Oct. Civil Law-II

7 Oct. Criminal Law 9 Oct. G.K. & Language

REGISTRATION FREE

MUKHERJEE NAGAR KAROL BAGH / PUSA ROAD

JUDICIAL CLAT JUDICIAL IAS (LAW) CLAT

FOUNDATION WEEKEND 5 OCT. 15 OCT. 14 OCT. 7 OCT.

16 OCT. 20 OCT. 880066-0301 / 2130 / 8380 880066-2140 / 011-49641810

8-10, 1st Floor, Above Maharashtra Bank, Mukherjee Ngr, Delhi -9

011-47532639 / 8800660301 Toll Free No. 1800-12000-2001

www.ambitionlawinstitute.com

Contact for Advt. Booking: M/s Friends Publicity Service
Ph. 23276901, 23282028 (M): 9212008155, 9212665841.



**ANOTHER BIG STEP TOWARDS
HIGH QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES**

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS OF 362 BEDS TRAUMA CENTRE IN SANJAY GANDHI MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE CEREMONY

Sunday, 29 September 2019 at 12 noon
at Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, S-Block,
Near Bus Terminal, Mangolpuri, Delhi

दिल्ली ने कर दिखाया

Health Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister, Delhi

World Heart Day



THE WAYS TO PREVENT HEART FAILURES



Did you know heart diseases now are the leading cause of disease burden in India? A study has found that heart diseases contributed to 17.8 per cent of total deaths in 2016; they rose from 13 lakh in 1990 to 28 lakh in 2016. Hence, awareness and prevention are the need of the hour.

SOMDATTA SAHA from The Indian Express talks to Dr Tarlochan Singh Kler (Padma Bhushan Awardee), Chairman, PSRI Heart Institute New Delhi, on cardio-vascular diseases, with special focus on heart failure and the modern technologies to manage the same

What according to you can be the probable reasons for the rise in deaths due to heart diseases in India?

If we talk about India and other developing countries, today non-communicable diseases are the major reasons for mortality. People initially thought that health issues like heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, occur in the developed countries. But you will be shocked to know that all these non-communicable diseases have affected India more than the developed countries. Three major killers in India today are diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. On this note, when we say heart disease, by and large we refer to coronary artery disease.

There is no doubt about the fact that coronary artery disease has increased in India and the main reason for the same is the massive lifestyle change in last 30-40 years. There has been a very rapid chaotic change. We can term it as chaotic urbanisation in India, which has resulted in immense amount of stress among people. Alongside, there has been a progressive increase in the consumption of tobacco products, alcohol, junk food et al. Today, we belong to a remote-controlled age, where due to technology and automation, people have stopped doing basic physical activities. This progressive decline in physical activities has led to increase in obesity, stress, hypertension, diabetes and increased cholesterol. You should also know that 66 million people in India today are suffering from diabetes, which is more than the population of several countries in the world.

What is coronary artery disease?

Coronary artery disease (CAD) is the most common type of heart disease. CAD happens when the arteries that supply blood to heart muscle become hardened and narrowed. This is due to the buildup of cholesterol and other materials, which is called plaque, on their inner walls of the arteries. This buildup is called atherosclerosis in medical terms. As it grows, less blood can flow through the arteries. As a result, the heart muscle cannot get the blood or oxygen it needs. This can lead to chest pain (angina) or a heart attack. Most heart attacks happen when a blood clot suddenly cuts off the hearts' blood supply, causing permanent heart damage. Over time, CAD can also weaken the heart muscle and contribute to heart failure (when heart can't pump sufficient blood to the various organs of the body) or sudden cardiac death. Sudden cardiac death can happen due to either major heart attack or arrhythmias (changes in the normal beating rhythm of the heart). 85 percent of sudden cardiac death happen due to arrhythmias

and only 15 percent is due to major heart attack. Arrhythmias usually occur in that person whose heart is already damaged. Because coronary artery disease often develops over decades, one might not notice a problem until he/she has a significant blockage or a heart attack. But there are plenty of ways to prevent and treat coronary artery disease and the most important one is leading a healthy lifestyle.

A common man often confuses between heart attack and heart failure. Can you please explain the difference between the two?

Heart failure and heart attack are both forms of heart disease. They also have some common causes. But they are two different things.

HEART FAILURE: In a layman's language, heart is a pump; its job is to pump blood to various parts of the body for proper functionality. If heart's pumping capacity decreases, then enough blood would not go to the organs. This will result in developing of what we call signs and symptoms of heart failure (or congestive heart failure). It is usually a long-term, chronic condition, but it may come on suddenly. In the early stages of congestive heart failure, there may be no symptoms. When symptoms do develop, they may include weight gain, breathlessness and fatigue, and others not normally associated with the heart.

Other symptoms include:

- Dry, hacking cough, especially when lying down
- Confusion, sleepiness and disorientation in older people
- Dizziness, fainting, fatigue or weakness
- Fluid buildup, usually in the legs, ankles and feet
- Increased urination at night
- Nausea, abdominal swelling, tenderness or pain that may result from fluid in the body and backup of blood in the liver
- Rapid breathing
- Bluish skin
- Feelings of anxiety, restlessness and suffocation
- Shortness of breath and lung congestion
- Wheezing and spasms in the airway, similar to asthma

The major causes for heart failure are coronary artery disease, hypertension, cardiomyopathy (a disease where there is no significant obstruction in the arteries, but only the heart muscle gets weak. This may occur due to viral infection, diabetes, toxic drugs) and rheumatic heart disease.

HEART ATTACK: Most heart attacks happen when suddenly one of the arteries leading to the heart gets blocked and cuts off the blood flow. Without oxygen, the heart muscles start dying. Heart at-

tacks usually happen suddenly. Without prompt heart attack treatment, the heart muscle begins to die.

Symptoms of a heart attack vary from person to person. But some of the common signs include:

- Pain or feeling of pressure in the center of the chest is the most common symptom. The pain, which can be mild or severe, may last for several minutes or come and go.
- Pain and discomfort in the upper body, such as neck, jaw, arms, back and stomach above the belly button.
- Breathing trouble
- Shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, lightheadedness are some other symptoms.

What are the different types of heart failure?

There are two types of heart failures: systolic heart failure, diastolic heart failure.

Systolic heart failure occurs due to reduced ejection fraction (pumping capacity of the heart). It happens when the left ventricle loses its ability to contract normally and the heart can't pump with enough force to push enough

blood into circulation. Normal ejection fraction is 60 percent and above.

In diastolic heart failure, the ejection fraction is normal; the main problem occurs when the relaxation of the left ventricle is poor. The left ventricle loses its ability to relax normally because the muscle has become stiff. The heart can't properly fill with blood during the resting period between each beat. This is a very recently discovered phenomenon (which was not recognised almost 20 years back).

When to understand it is the time to see a doctor?

In my opinion, every child, during birth, should be examined for any kind of cardiac disease. Then the child should again get checked before he/she joins school. If this becomes a policy in India, then practically the children with congenital heart disease will be diagnosed by the age of five.

If one has to detect acquired heart disease, normally we suggest people above 35 to have annual check-up. When we say annual check-up, it includes treadmill test (TMT), alongside blood test. We divide these people into two cate-

gories- normal risk individual, high risk individuals. Normal risk individual, who does not have a family history of heart disease or diabetes, can have cardiac check-up once in two years; but high risk individuals, who have family history of heart disease, should go for check-up annually.

What are the interventions in regard to heart failure?

When we have patients of heart failure, we try to find out the reason behind the same and treat that. For example, if hypertension is the reason for someone's heart failure, we treat hypertension; if valve narrowing is the reason, we treat that. We try to identify the reversible causes to increase the pumping capacity of the heart.

What are the advancements in terms of management of heart failures?

Let us take a cue from the above discussion. If we do not find any reversible factor in a patient with heart failure, then there are three modalities:

1 Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy (CRT): It is a special kind of pacemaker, which can im-

prove the pumping capacity of heart. CRT is a clinically proven treatment option for some individuals with heart failure. Every patient with heart failure is not suitable for CRT device. Only those patients, who on the ECG have broad QRS complex (more than 130 milli-seconds) and have left bundle branch block (LBBB), are eligible to undergo CRT. A CRT device sends small electrical impulses to both lower chambers of the heart to help them beat together in a more synchronised pattern. This may improve the heart's ability to pump blood and oxygen to your body. A CRT system is made up of two parts:

- The heart device, which is actually a tiny computer, plus a battery, contained in a small titanium metal case that is about the size of a pocket watch;
- Insulated wires, called leads that are implanted to carry information signals from your heart to the heart device and to carry electrical impulses to your heart.

2 Heart transplantation: A heart transplant replaces the patient's heart with a donor heart. Doctors remove the patient's heart by transecting the aorta, the main pulmonary artery and the superior and inferior vena cavae, and dividing the left atrium, leaving the back wall of the left atrium with the pulmonary vein openings in place. The surgeon connects the donor heart by sewing together the recipient and donor vena cavae, aorta, pulmonary artery and left atrium. In patients with congenital heart disease, the surgeon may simultaneously transplant the lungs and the heart.

3 Artificial heart (LVAD): The latest advancement in the field of high-tech surgeries is Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD). An LVAD is an implantable, mechanical pump that attaches directly to the patient's heart. It is designed to assist, or in severe cases, take over, the pumping function of the left ventricle. The device is surgically implanted in the abdomen, just below the diaphragm, and pumps blood from the left ventricle (the main pumping chamber of the heart) to the aorta (the main artery that carries oxygenated blood to the body). An external, wearable system that includes a controller and two batteries is attached by an external wire called a driveline. A majority of LVAD patients are discharged from the hospital after they recover from the surgery and are able to resume their normal activities and hobbies at home. Initially, LVAD was developed to serve as a bridge to transplant.

Now, the scientists are working towards creating an artificial heart, which will be completely implantable, can replace the right and left ventricles, as well as the four

heart valves. That is called Total Artificial Heart (TAH) and can be charged from outside.

The great news is that most of these advanced heart failure technologies are available in India at least in Metropolitan cities but the limiting factor remain lack of awareness and cost of treatments involved.

What are the complications associated to LVAD?

The very first complication is the amount associated to it. The cost of LVAD machine is around 40 lakhs. In a private set-up, the cost of LVAD therapy can go up to 80 lakhs. Cardiac transplantation is cheaper compared to it; cardiac transplantation costs around 15 to 20 lakhs in a private hospital. Another risk factor is infection, especially in India. If the infection spreads to the blood, it might lead to the patient's death. As LVAD is an artificial device, it also has the threat of clot formation. Hence such patients should be kept on blood thinner to avoid the clots.

You have many firsts to your credit, and one of such is your expertise in Electrophysiology. Can you please elaborate to Electrophysiology?

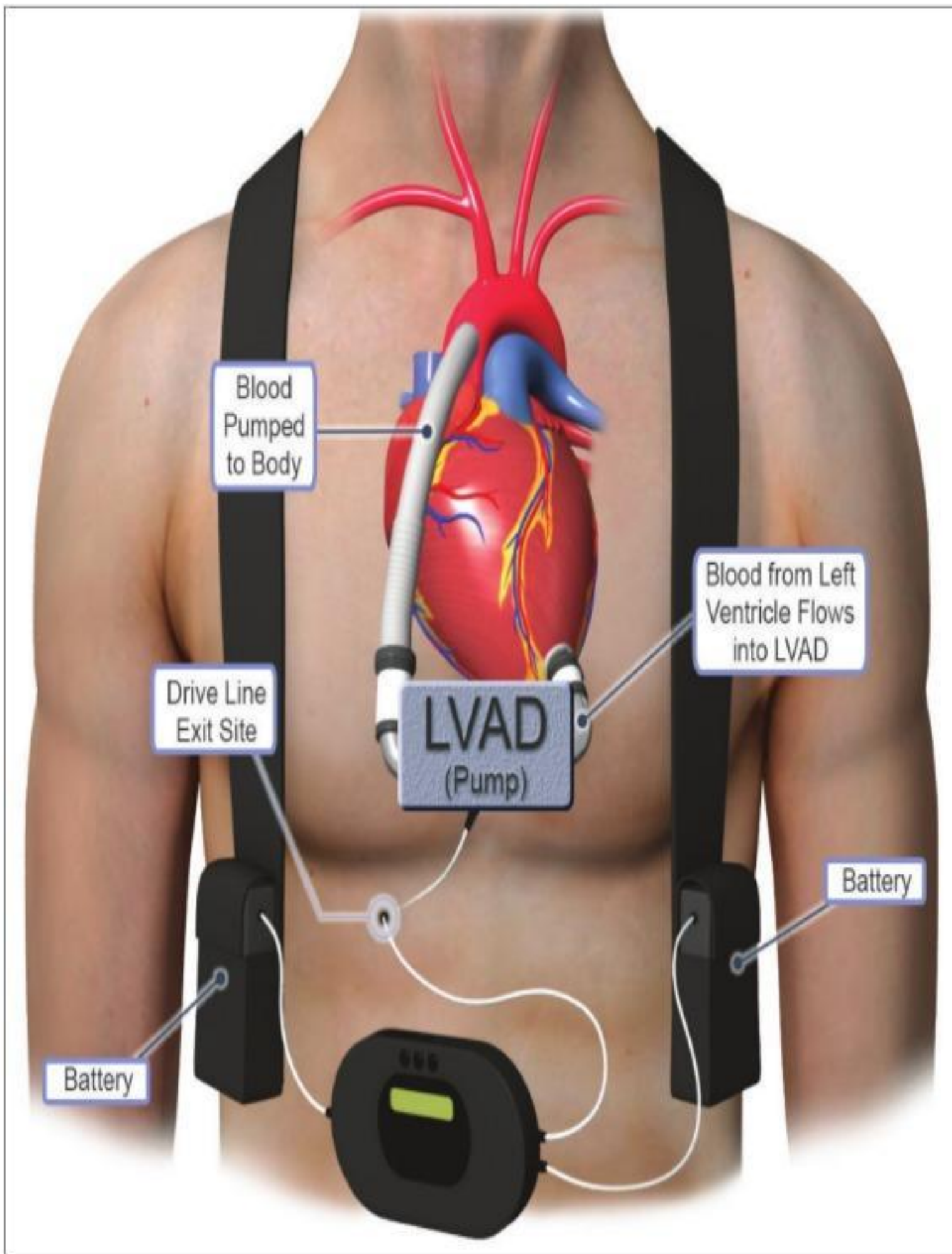
Electrophysiology is a branch of cardiology, which deals with heart rhythm problem. Normally, heart rhythm is regular when sitting pulse rate is between 60-100 beats per minute (BPM). Anything below 60 BPM is called bradycardia and anything more than 100 BPM is called tachycardia. Electrophysiology is the study of any problem in regard to the rhythm of heart, where there is bradycardia or tachycardia or irregularity of heart beat or there is any combination of these three; and doctors who deal with that are called electrophysiologists. It is a super-specialty in the field of cardiology.

Currently, heart failure has no cure. One might have to take medicine and follow a treatment plan for the rest of his/her life. What kind of complications can 'living with heart failure' create?

Several complications can occur, like physical drain of patient, financial drain of patient and family, emotional drain and most importantly fear of dying. Hence, constant counselling is must for leading a life with heart failure.

Your message for the readers

My only message to the readers is, instead of going to the doctors and hospitals for treatment of heart failure please prevent heart failure, as 'Prevention is always better than Cure'. Alongside health education is the need of the hour, so we should take our steps ahead towards awareness.



ADVERTORIAL

An initiative by **RED**
Read. Engage. Deliver.

World Heart Day



Youngsters inherit heart diseases

What is Familial Hypercholesterolemia (FH)?

Hypercholesterolemia is a condition characterised by very high levels of cholesterol in the blood. People with FH are essentially born with high LDL (low density lipoprotein) cholesterol. Everyone's cholesterol levels tend to rise with age, but those with FH have LDL levels that start high and go even higher over time. Too much cholesterol increases a person's risk of developing heart disease.

Men with FH get coronary heart disease up to 20 years earlier, so, half of men with untreated FH will have a heart attack or angina before they turn 50. For some it will be as early as their 30s. FH is inherited and passed down through families by 50%, so when an individual with FH is diagnosed, it is important that all other family members are also screened for FH. Among Indian patients with high cholesterol (more than 160mg/dl) few are genetic cases which tend to be undiagnosed as FH. It is tragic that FH, which can be treated, is so easily missed and goes undiagnosed and undertreated. Early detection and treatment of carrier of FH will prevent premature heart attacks in society.

How many types of FH are there?

Of the two main types of FH — homozygous is rare, compared to heterozygous. Those with heterozygous FH, the incidence of heart attacks may occur when the patient is in their 40s or 50s. The reason for the heart disease in these patients with FH is because their LDL receptors are low on the surface of the liver cell. Although rare, typically homozygous, patients develop heart disease by the time they are in their teens or even earlier. Their survival is short and they die very young.

You have researched extensively on FH, yet you say it gets missed. Why is it so?

Department of Cardiology and Department of Genetics under the guidance of Dr IC Verma at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (SRGH) facilitated the possibility of studying heart attacks among young Indians with fol-



low ups. A significant finding was that 15% of patients, who had young heart attacks, also had FH. Similar studies showed 10% and 14% prevalence in the US and Australia respectively. Interesting outcome was that young heart patients with FH; had none or lesser conventional risk factors like smoking, diabetes and hypertension. The findings of this study were recently published in the *Indian Heart Journal*.

Moreover, many medical practitioners do not know how to diagnose it. My advice, in case of young patients with heart attack with no risk factors — one should subject them to

tests identifying FH. In recent times the European Society of Cardiology has developed the Dutch Lipid Clinic Network (DLCN) criteria to diagnose this condition. Using the score from this criterion FH can be easily diagnosed in a community.

In our centre, we take the detailed family history to identify young people with vascular diseases (young heart attack and stroke, peripheral vascular disease). Check LDL levels even from non-fasting lipid profile and other physical features like presence of Arcus Cornealis (whitish curve or arc commonly seen on the upper part of the eye ball) before

diagnosing FH.

Although the gold standard is genetic testing which is not commonly available, but it is available with us at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

What about treatment?

FH is treatable with drugs, procedures and by lifestyle modification. Most important is to adapt an active healthy lifestyle and to include statins, which will focus on reducing LDL levels to under 70 mg/dl in case of FH patients. This should be below 55 for those detected with FH and who have already had an attack. If needed,

Familial hypercholesterolemia or FH is an inherited disorder wherein there is a defect in how the body recycles LDL (bad) cholesterol. It is one of the important causes for prevalence of heart attacks among young Indians.

Dr Jitendra Pal Singh Sawhney, Senior Consultant Cardiologist, Chairman Department of Cardiology at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi, who has conducted extensive research in the field of FH, feels it is under-recognised but treatable when detected at an early stage

MEN WITH FH GET CORONARY HEART DISEASE ABOUT 20 YEARS EARLIER. SO, HALF OF THE MEN WITH UNTREATED FH WILL HAVE A HEART ATTACK OR ANGINA BEFORE THEY TURN 50

What can be done to prevent the family?

By diagnosing the index case, we not only treat the patient but the family at risk. Cascade screening is to identify the carrier of FH in family by doing lipid profile of the children and siblings of index patient. If we treat them with statin and/or ezitimibe, we can prevent premature heart attacks in society.

What is your message on World Heart Day for prevention of heart diseases in FH carriers?

In our country there is evidence that heart attacks occur at young age in 40-50% of patients (less than 55 years for men, less than 60 years for women). Among youngsters who get a heart attack, these days, many are under 40 years old. The moment they develop a cardiac condition, their whole family life is impacted. The risk factors for young individual are diabetes, hypertension, smoking and lipid disorder. Among lipid disorder patients if we identify FH patients then we can identify and save the family members who are carriers of disease by treating them early in life in asymptomatic stage. Healthy lifestyle and risk factor modification is also very essential.

Our heart is more than a pump

Once curing begins, our system works on reversing the damage caused to the normal state of a person's holistic body

How does Ayurveda cure heart diseases?

Ayurveda has been practised in India from time immemorial. However, with numerous invasions on India, it started losing its glory and importance. There are more proven cures to diseases in Ayurveda. Ayurveda follows a traditional holistic approach that covers physiology, psychology, environment and the fundamental of life — 'the being'. Ayurveda's resurgence must be credited to Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, who revived Ayurveda to its full glory in the early 1980s.

In the context of heart diseases, it is important if we can reverse the effect of a disease. Which means once we inflict a disease, our system cannot be treated to go back to the levels of the pre-disease inflection state. So, even after an angioplasty or open-heart surgery, a patient's health does not improve and they are left to depend on medication for the rest of our lives. The quality of life is also impacted, as we face many restrictions on what we can do or cannot do.

But, according to the approach taken by Maharishi Ayurveda treatment, disease reversal is not only possible but is also achieved routinely. This is possible if one is treated with the holistic treatment approach recommended by Maharishi Ayurveda.

What is the Maharishi Ayurveda treatment for heart diseases?

As I mentioned earlier our heart is more than a mere pump; it is an organ at the center of our body and is packed with emotions like joy and elation or sadness and frustration. In Maharishi Ayurveda way of treating heart diseases, we consider physiology as the manifestation of consciousness that transforms into the body's own intelligence. Therefore, we consider the involvement of suppression of this intelligence by stress as the major cause of any health problem including heart disease. Research indicates that practicing Trans-



AMRIT KALASH WAS FOUND TO BE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE RASAYANA WHICH HAS A DIRECT POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE OVERALL HEART HEALTH

scendental Meditation technique twice daily helps in lowering blood pressure, reversing arterial blockage, which enhancing resistance towards stress which has also been established through research studies. In the case of patients with heart diseases, like any other treatment in Ayurveda, we identify and eliminate the root cause of the disease. Effectively this means that we work towards curing the of the disease. Once curing begins, our system works on reversing the damage caused to a normal



state of the person's holistic body.

During the treatment of heart diseases that we follow, we incorporate procedures that can work at multiple levels of the body's functioning, and not only physical level. At Maharishi Ayurveda we also include the following:

- Ayurvedic Rasayanas for re-establishing balance
- Diet, routine and behavioural adjustments
- Panchkarma for detoxification and rejuvenation
- Yoga-asanas for neuro-muscular

"There is an emotional aspect to the heart which people forget when it comes to treating heart diseases. The upside of Ayurveda is that it addresses the root cause of the heart disease and treats it with a holistic approach compared to allopathic treatment," says **Anand Shrivastava**, Chairman, Maharishi Ayurveda



Ayurveda looks at heart health in a very holistic manner and hence, the treatment protocol for any imbalance in heart functioning has to be treated holistically. This is where a product like Amrit kalash plays an effective role in supporting the overall heart health."

— **Dr Devendra Triguna**, Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, Incumbent president of the Association of Manufacturers of Ayurvedic Medicine (AMAM) and All India Ayurvedic Congress (AIAC)

integration

- Pranayama for Neuro-respiratory integration
- Transcendental Meditation for stress reduction and total integration of body-mind consciousness

What do you recommend to our readers for a healthy heart?

They must add Amrit Kalash, to their daily routine for a healthy heart. It has been tested and researched at several institutions globally, like Ohio State University, University of California, All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, King George's Medical University in Lucknow, and Sawai Man Singh Medical College in Jaipur. Amrit Kalash was found to be highly effective Rasayana which has a direct positive impact on the overall heart health.

Amrit Kalash is the synthesis of the intense research by the experts and 5,000-year-old wisdom of Ayurveda texts. It is a synergy of embodied intelligence of many herbs, all promoting balance, bliss, longevity and the development of full human potential — youthfulness and enlightenment. Our Amrit Kalash is a super Rasayana — the essence of the supreme knowledge of Ayurvedic texts.

Amrit Kalash re-enlivens the innate intelligence of all the organs collectively and restores the balance in all bodily functions. This Super Rasayana removes the Ama (Toxins) and produces Ojas, responsible for immunity, vitality, liveliness and glow. Amrit Kalash helps improve digestion, boosts mental alertness, aids in managing physical stress and strengthens the overall mental and physical health.

Amrit Kalash was borne of the vision of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. He realised that the answer to the modern-day ailments was in understanding the secret wisdom of the past. He got together some of the most eminent Ayurveda scholars, scientists, and physicians of the time to work on a solution that could nourish body and mind in a holistic and balanced way.

FIRST CCTV CAMERAS NOW 2 LAKH STREETLIGHTS



SALIENT FEATURES OF MUKHYAMANTRI STREET LIGHT SCHEME

- DISCOMs will install all streetlights as part of this scheme
- With the permission of owners, streetlights will be installed on the wall of homes or shops, to provide lighting for dark spots
- The electricity for the streetlight will be taken from the concerned home or shop. The electricity bill will be paid to the DISCOM directly by the government. This will be done along the same lines as the CCTV Camera policy, and no financial burden shall be put on the home or shop owner
- These are modern streetlights with light sensors. These will automatically switch on when it becomes dark, and switch off in the morning

“ There are many dark spots in different part of Delhi, where women are unsafe. We will identify every such dark spot, and install more than 2 lakh streetlights, so that women feel safe in this city.”

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi



To get a streetlight installed in your area, please contact your area MLA

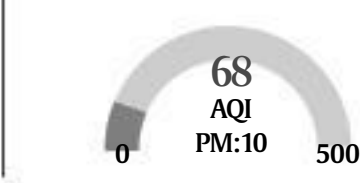
9 THE CITY



0-50 Good

ANAND VIHAR

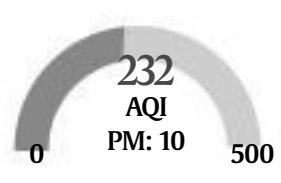
Satisfactory



51-100 Satisfactory

SIRIFORT

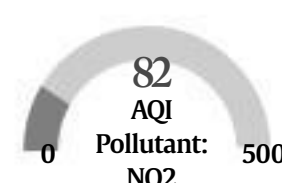
Poor



101-200 Moderate

SHADIPUR

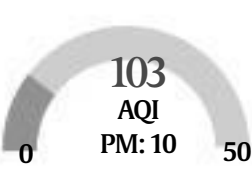
Satisfactory



301-400 Very Poor

DWARKA-SECTOR 8

Moderate



401-500 Severe

WOMAN INJURED, EMBASSY INFORMED

Snatchers target Brazilian woman at busy GK-2 market

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

TWO MEN on a motorcycle allegedly snatched a bag from a 27-year-old Brazilian woman at M-block market in Greater Kailash II. The woman tried to resist, but they pushed her and she fell, sustaining injuries. The incident was captured on a CCTV camera installed at a shop in the vicinity, and police have arrested three men, an officer told *The Indian Express*.

The case comes under the jurisdiction of CR Park police station, where three policemen were suspended last week after two bikers dragged a 28-year-old journalist out of an autorickshaw and snatched her phone.

The latest incident involving the foreign national, Cecilia, took place at roughly the same spot where two bikers had snatched a bag from a 72-year-old Australian woman on July 16.

According to an officer, the

incident took place around 1 pm Wednesday when the woman, who is supposed to go to Australia next, was looking for a taxi after visiting a physiotherapist at the market. "She was looking for a private vehicle when two men came on a bike and snatched her bag from her shoulder. She tried to resist, but the pillion rider pushed her and she fell to the ground," a senior officer said.

The woman, in her complaint, said, "While I was walking near M-block market, I heard a motorbike behind me. Before I could react, two men on the bike slowed down and snatched my bag. With the help of locals, I informed policemen about the incident and they reached the spot."

Police said she was taken to hospital and discharged after treatment.

"On the basis of her complaint, an FIR was registered and several teams have been formed. She has informed that her wal-

let, iPhone and passport was inside the bag. One of the teams of inspector P K Jha, with the help of technical surveillance, found that her phone was on and the location was in Sarita Vihar. A team was sent there and the phone was recovered from the bushes. Other items have also been recovered," an officer said. The embassy has been informed, and she has left the country, police said.

Meanwhile, police are yet to make an arrest in connection with the snatching incident involving Joy mala Bagchi, the ANI journalist targeted at CR Park. Several teams of Delhi Police are working round-the-clock, an officer said. The incident had left Bagchi with injuries on her chin, jaw, and arms, and she is currently undergoing treatment at AIIMS Trauma Centre.

"We have identified the accused and questioned his family members, but he is absconding and his family is not aware about his location," an officer said.



THE PROJECT TO INSTALL STREETLIGHTS ACROSS THE CITY WAS AMONG THE FIRST THINGS THE AAP GOVERNMENT HAD PROMISED TO START. BUT IT'S TAKEN FOUR YEARS TO COMPLETE...

In all places we realised were dark spots, we got streetlights installed. We faced a lot of trouble because they (MCDs) were not ready to give us no-objection certificates. Then the court had to intervene. Once lights were installed, municipal corporations were not ready to take the handover; they still aren't.

Was it about who gets the credit?

Who is getting any credit in any case? We put up 38,000 lights; is anyone coming to give us credit? There are no names on streetlights. We are seeing a similar problem in parks. Municipal corporations are only interested in corruption... everyone is scared of them. They don't want to take the handover (of streetlights) because they want us to give them money instead of the responsibility to operate them. But there is no account of the money you give them.

It was when we were installing CCTVs that we realised this model could work for lights as well. We take the connection from the meter of the person whose house we are putting up the light on. We have planned to put up 2.1 lakh lights. The initial capital cost works out to be 5-10 times lesser than installing a pole and light. The power consumption bill will be reimbursed to



There was a burglary at my house recently. Can you imagine? At the Home Minister's house! Books were taken off shelves. Had they come to steal or read? Several people have told me this wasn't really a burglary. Police would have caught the thieves. Elections are coming.

— SATYENDAR JAIN
HEALTH MINISTER

The 250-odd mohalla clinics or primary health centres we have started is the highest in any city in the world. We are adding more soon.

How is your plan to rent spaces for these working out?

It is going well. We have already got 200 sites. Our opponents oppose this and that's why it gets more popular. Mohalla clinic is a small thing. Our opponents made it big, and I thank them for opposing it. They ran campaigns passing off half-constructed clinics as functional ones. Congress's Vijender Singh went to a clinic after closing hours and said it was shut. Negative publicity is more useful. BJP is now saying we put up lights after four years. That is because BJP-run municipal corporations did not install them. Corporations get Rs 1,100 crore as electricity tax; it is their responsibility. We have to do this because of their failure. After criticising this for two days, they are asked to stop by the central leadership as they are worried about the public's reaction.

You faced criticism for the decision to waive bills of those who use up to 200 units of power each month. Some say this is akin to doling out freebies.

MPs get 4,000 units free. No intellectual or media house has any problem, neither does anyone ask them anything. The MP sits in his car while the chauffeur drives,

the homeowner. Discoms are on board. If there's more demand, we are ready to increase estimates. East Delhi is small in terms of area but there are a lot of dark spots in the lanes there.

If you go abroad, you will realise poles are not used to set up streetlights. They are all installed on walls. I saw this first in Rome a few years ago. Only we do it differently. We put up poles because it costs more. After coming back from Rome, I tried it out but it did not work because we hadn't worked out a solution. When we kicked off the CCTV project, it came to us that we could use the same method for streetlights.

Is the deadline for 1,000 mohalla clinics by year-end a little too ambitious?

It is good that it's ambitious.



ONIONS ON WHEELS

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Saturday flagged off 70 mobile vans from Delhi Secretariat. These will be stationed in 70 constituencies to sell onions at Rs 23.90/kg. Tashi Tobgyal

Dwarka-Najafgarh Metro Grey Line set to open next week

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

NAJAFGARH, LOCATED on the outskirts of the capital, will officially feature on the Delhi Metro map from next week, officials said Saturday. The 4.3-km-long line begins at Dwarka, through which the Blue Line passes, before ending at Najafgarh, with a stop at Nangli. The station at Najafgarh has come up at the Delhi Gate intersection of the area, which is on a busy arterial road dotted by markets and government schools.

Due to space constraints, the Najafgarh station has been constructed in a manner which gives it the shape of a dumbbell. It is built on a 288-metre-long station box, which includes the 195-metre-long platform.

"A station box is basically the area excavated to construct a station, which includes the platform, equipment rooms, etc. It is among the longer ones, but not the longest," a DMRC official said.

"There were challenges, as the entry and exit points had to be located in a crowded location in a way that they would be properly accessible to the public. Therefore, the final station box has expansions as well as contractions at multiple locations, giving it the shape of a dumbbell," the official added.

DMRC executive director Anuj Dayal said the corridor, colour-coded grey, is likely to start operations next week. It received the safety clearance on September 26. The Grey Line was not originally part of the Metro's Phase III project, under which the Pink and Magenta Lines have come up.

The existing Dwarka station, which will now have an interchange facility, will be connected to the new station through an 80-metre passage.

About 2,000 square metres of additional parking space shall be provided at the Dwarka station. Pick and drop by e-rickshaws, autos and buses have also been provided at the station.

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

EVER SINCE Meena Bazaar was dismantled earlier this month, vendors from the area have been agitating against the eviction, which they claim goes against a 2015 High Court stay order.

On September 16, the North MCD and Delhi Police had removed around 200 vendors from the area, as part of a larger city-wide drive to remove "encroachers", including at Darya Ganj book market, Lajpat Nagar, Karol Bagh and Chandni Chowk. DCP (Central) Mandeep Singh Randhawa said police had "accompanied the civic body for the demolition".

Vendors, though, said the move caught them off guard. "They came at 1.30 pm with bulldozers, and it went on till 4-4.30 pm," said Abdul Aziz (42) president of the Jama Masjid Rehdi Patri Nagar Association and



Many vendors say livelihood has been disrupted

member of the Town Vending Committee since 2018. "We tried telling them there is a High Court stay order from 2015 against our eviction."

In August 2014, too, Meena Bazaar was dismantled without prior notice. After appealing to the High Court, a stay order was passed on January 15, 2015, which directed authorities to not

evict vendors until a survey is undertaken by the Town Vending Committee.

North MCD deputy commissioner Vedika Reddy, however, said, "Many orders have been passed since the 2015 stay, which we have interpreted together before taking this decision."

Sandeep Verma, a member of National Hawkers Federation,

said, "In the final judgment of many of these orders, the court has sided with the vendors."

The Delhi government also announced last week that 28 Town Vending Committees would be notified in Delhi as per the Street Vendors Act, 2014, and a city-wide survey of vendors would be undertaken. The Chief Minister also dissuaded civic bodies from displacing street vendors.

Aziz, however, said that before the survey is done, vendors should be allowed to return to their original spots so they are not deprived of a livelihood.

Nasreen (37) who sold shirts in the area, said, "They have uprooted us; what do we do from here? Will we now have to go on the roads and start begging?"

"Vendors are not encroachers, which the 2014 Act clearly states. They are a separate economic ecosystem," said Verma. "The Act provides for a procedure so that vendors have a say, through the TVC, of overseeing the matter."

Lakshya, a DU student who rode the bike for 7 km, said he first saw someone else riding it on the road. "It feels like a scooter, and its brakes work well," he said. "If the battery dies, the company is alerted and the rider gets a call from them,"

other. A GPS tracks the bike's location, and there's no time limit. The amount is deducted from the user after the ride ends. "We get customers at Khan Market, INA and Jorbagh Metro stations, where we have around 10-15 bikes each. Most come on Saturday and Sunday," said Kumar.

Lakshya, a DU student who rode the bike for 7 km, said he first saw someone else riding it on the road. "It feels like a scooter, and its brakes work well," he said. "If the battery dies, the company is alerted and the rider gets a call from them,"

other. A GPS tracks the bike's location, and there's no time limit. The amount is deducted from the user after the ride ends. "We get customers at Khan Market, INA and Jorbagh Metro stations, where we have around 10-15 bikes each. Most come on Saturday and Sunday," said Kumar.

Lakshya, a DU student who rode the bike for 7 km, said he first saw someone else riding it on the road. "It feels like a scooter, and its brakes work well," he said. "If the battery dies, the company is alerted and the rider gets a call from them,"

other. A GPS tracks the bike's location, and there's no time limit. The amount is deducted from the user after the ride ends. "We get customers at Khan Market, INA and Jorbagh Metro stations, where we have around 10-15 bikes each. Most come on Saturday and Sunday," said Kumar.

Lakshya, a DU student who rode the bike for 7 km, said he first saw someone else riding it on the road. "It feels like a scooter, and its brakes work well," he said. "If the battery dies, the company is alerted and the rider gets a call from them,"

said Kumar.

The company, at the moment, doesn't provide helmets. The bikes are available at eight Metro stations in South and Central Delhi, at INA market, Khan Market, Jorbagh, Patel Chowk, JLN Metro, Mandi House, Pragati Maidan and Northern Railway hospital at Connaught place.

A Delhi Metro spokesperson said, "DMRC strives to introduce last-mile connectivity measures at as many stations as possible depending on feasibility and availability of operators and aggregators."

would not know the names of all the ministers in his cabinet, but he knows me. The CBI is doing their job, I am doing mine.

Do you expect any development on that front?

It doesn't matter to me. The public knows everything. There was a burglary at my house recently. Can you imagine? At the Home Minister's house! Across four floors, the thieves pulled out clothing and spread it across the floor. Books were taken off shelves. Had they come to steal or read? Several people have told me that this wasn't really a burglary. Police would have caught the thieves. Elections are coming.

What is happening on the WiFi project front? It was a big promise that still remains unfulfilled.

It is progressing. We have invited tenders for it. Within 10-15 days, we should see some real progress. We should have an announcement to make before Diwali.

Any other big-ticket announcements in the pipeline?

We want to be a lighthouse that people will force their leaders to move towards. They are being forced to rename mohalla clinics and replicate that in their states. Some call it the *basti davalhaana*, some say let us wait a bit to see if AAP wins again. They want to use the mohalla clinic concept after we are out of power. They (the opposition) don't want the poor to rise. They only want the elite... The work we have done is reversible at the moment... If we don't come into power again, all improvements can be stopped. But once 1,000 clinics are constructed, it will be tough to shut them down. We have found solutions for issues like education, CCTVs, health and water... India will not come in the category of developed nations with their (the opposition parties') mindset, you need the *aam aadmi* mindset.

2 held after raid at South Delhi bar

New Delhi: The owner of a South Delhi bar was arrested after a raid was conducted by the Excise Intelligence Bureau (EIB) Friday night for allegedly operating without a valid liquor licence and serving illegal alcohol. EIB officers said they received information about unauthorised liquor allegedly being served at Nocturnal Air Bar in South-Ex, which opened three months ago. The owner, Amit Singh, and bar manager, Mahesh, are currently in police custody under relevant sections of the Excise Act.

"For the past two weeks, we've been working on information about illegal activities at Nocturnal Bar. The raid lasted about three-four hours, as the formalities were completed. Several bottles of unlicensed liquor were seized, along with bottles that came from another state," said Alok Kumar, ACP (EIB).

Officers claimed Singh was unable to produce a licence when asked for one. **ENS**

FLEET OF 250 AT THE MOMENT

Battery-powered bikes to zip from one Metro station to another

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

BATTERY-POWERED BIKES, introduced at Metro stations in South and Central Delhi on September 2, have found some takers in the city, with nearly 5,000 people using the emission-free bikes in just under a month.

Already operational in Bengaluru and Navi Mumbai, the 'Yulu Miracle bikes', which can be used by anyone over 16 years of age, can reach speeds of up to 65-70 km per hour. Buoyed by the re-

sponse, the company, which has entered into a partnership with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, says it plans to expand the fleet, which currently stands at 250.

"Delhi is among the most polluted cities. I lived in Tokyo, which is many times the size of Delhi, but even there, pollution level is negligible. This is because fuel reforms were implemented in the 1970s, and their urban planning discouraged use of personal cars... In Indian cities, where new Metro lines are coming up, last-mile connectivity is lacking, which we aim to fill," said R K Misra, the



The bikes at INA Metro station

company's co-founder.

Bookings are done through the Yulu app with Rs 250 as security deposit. After an activation charge of Rs 10, one has to pay Rs 10 for every 10 minutes. "A person has to scan the QR code on the bike, which 'unlocks' it... A full charge can give a mileage of 60-65 km," said Ravi Kumar, a company promoter at Khan Market Metro station.

The plan is to expand the reach to societies and government offices near Metro stations, so a person can take the bike from one pick-up point, and drop it off at an-

No arrest yet in theft from judge's vehicle

epaper.indianexpress.com

GOVT & POLITICS

Imran on RSS: BJP seeks apology, Cong says Pak PM given undue importance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE BJP on Saturday sought an apology from the Congress after Pakistan PM Imran Khan in his UN speech said that the erstwhile Congress home minister had stated that the RSS was training terrorists in its camps. The Congress attacked the BJP for giving undue importance to Khan's speech and asked whose agenda was being served — "Mother India's or Imran Khan's".

"What is astounding is that there are certain people with vested interests who are deeming it fit to give importance to the statements of a person who does not even know if Modi-ji is the PM or President of India. It may suit the agenda of an enemy nation like Pakistan to give credence to the statements of its PM Mr Imran Khan, but for the BJP and certain segments of the media to be publicising Imran Khan's statements is extremely devious to say the least," a Congress statement said.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra attacked the Congress for "helping Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in maligning India's image" at the UN. Patra referred to Khan's reference to the Congress in his speech while attacking the RSS. Khan had said that the erstwhile Congress Home Minister had said that RSS had been training terrorists in its camps. Patra sought an apology from former PM Manmohan Singh, Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and former home minister Sushil Kumar Shinde.

The Congress said Khan had been given a befitting reply at the UN by Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra and that the party stands by it. "As far as Pakistan PM Imran Khan's speech is concerned, it was replied to, in an erudite, to-the-point manner by our young First Secretary at the permanent Indian Mission at UN, Ms Vidisha Maitra. The entire Nation as indeed the Congress party stands by the reply furnished by her and the Government of India," the Congress statement said. It said the party was waiting for the Prime Minister to return and tell the nation about his trip to the US and UN General Assembly. "We will react after that," the statement said.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) chief spokesperson Rainsvder Sharma urged the Centre and local administration to consider the "genuine demands" of the business community in J&K. He said Jammu and Kashmir is under various kinds of restrictions leading to the "worst kind" of economic slowdown. "This kind of attitude of the central government is quite unfortunate and disappointing for everyone," he said.

AFTER BEIJING RAISES KASHMIR ISSUE AT UNGA

India hits out at China, slams CPEC: Expect others to respect sovereignty



EXPRESS IN U.S.

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 28

TAKING A swipe at the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, India on Saturday hit out at Beijing for raising the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at the UN General Assembly.

The Ministry of External Affairs' spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said, "The Chinese side is

well aware of India's position that Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are an integral part of India, and that the recent developments are entirely a matter internal to us.

"We expect that other countries will respect India's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and desist from efforts to change the status quo through the illegal so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir," he said, in reference to the CPEC.

Raising the Kashmir issue at the United Nations, China had on Friday told the General Assembly that the "dispute" should be peacefully and properly addressed in accordance with the UN Charter, Security Council resolutions and the bilateral agreement.

China, a close ally of Pakistan,

also stressed that no actions should be taken that would unilaterally change the "status quo".

"The Kashmir issue, a dispute left from the past, should be peacefully and properly addressed in accordance with the UN Charter, Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreement," State Councillor and Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi said in his address to the UN General Assembly on Friday.

"No actions that would unilaterally change the status quo should be taken. As a neighbour of both India and Pakistan, China hopes to see the dispute effectively managed and stability restored to the relationship between the two sides," Wang said.

This is not the first time that India and China have publicly

disagreed on the issue of revoking of special status to J&K under Article 370 and bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on September 25 in New York on the sidelines of the UNGA.

"Met FM Wang Yi of China. Was helpful in stock-taking of our relationship," Jaishankar had tweeted on September 25.

In August this year, Jaishankar had travelled to Beijing and had underlined that the future of India-China relations will depend on "mutual sensitivity to each other's core concerns". He had conveyed to Wang Yi that recent changes in India's Constitution had "no implication for either the external bound-

aries of India or the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China".

Jaishankar had also told Wang that India was not raising any additional territorial claims and that Chinese concerns in this regard were "misplaced".

As Wang, State Councillor and Foreign Minister, raised India's move to revoke the special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcate the state, Jaishankar made it clear that this was an "internal matter".

During the bilateral meeting in Beijing on August 12, Wang had also raised "rising tensions" between India and Pakistan as a result of these changes. Jaishankar reiterated that it was an "internal matter" that had "no bearing on Pakistan" and did not impact the LoC (Line of Control).



Army jawans during the encounter in Ramban district. PTI

3 Hizbul militants killed, hostages freed in Ramban

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 28

A JOINT operation by Jammu and Kashmir Police and the security forces in Batote town of Ramban district on Saturday gunned down three Hizbul Mujahideen militants in an encounter and rescued all eight members of a family who were held hostage by the trio, according to the police.

A soldier was killed and two policemen sustained injuries during the firefight, which lasted nearly three hours, the police said. Identity of the slain soldier was not immediately known.

The deceased soldier was identified as Naik Rajendra Singh, 27, from Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. Singh's wife Jamana Kanwar survive him, Defence Ministry spokesperson Lt Colonel Devender Anand said.

The three Hizbul Mujahideen operatives were reportedly involved in the murder of a senior BJP leader Anil Parihar and his brother Ajit in Kishtwar last year. According to the police, they also killed RSS functionary Chander Kant Sharma and his PSO in April this year.

According to police information, the trio was also responsible for snatching an AK-47 rifle from the PSO of Kishtwar Deputy Commissioner Angrez Singh Rana in March this year and snatched a similar weapon from the PSO of PDP's district president Sheikh Nasir earlier this month, the police said.

A police officer identified two of the slain militants as Osama, who came from Kishtwar, and

Moin-ul-Islam, who came from the Valley. "The third one appears to be Haroon. But we have called his parents to identify the body to be sure about his identity," the officer said.

According to the officer, the three were involved in all four killings and the two incidents of snatching weapons in Kishtwar town, beginning with the Parihar brothers' killings on November 1 last year.

Inspector General of Police (Jammu zone) Mukesh Singh reached Batote from Jammu to supervise the operation.

Sources said the militants initially tried to stop a Doda-bound bus at Thor village, nearly 7 km from Batote, around 6.30 am. But the driver reportedly sped off.

Later, as a Territorial Army (TA) patrol team passed through the area, the hiding trio thought they were being cordoned off and threw grenades and opened fire at the TA team, who fired back, forcing the militants to flee, a police officer said.

While security and police reinforcements reached the area and started a combing operation, the militants, in the meantime, reached Batote town and barged into a house. They took eight people, including two women and two children, hostage. The police and Army personnel cordoned the house and managed to rescue all the hostages, except Vijay Kumar, 52, a tailor.

After efforts to persuade the militants to release Kumar failed, the forces killed all three militants and rescued the last hostage safely, the officer said.



The INS Khanderi being commissioned at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai. Pradip Das

We are capable of dealing Pak a bigger blow, says Rajnath

SRINATH RAO
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh on Saturday accused Pakistan of conspiring to commit another 26/11-style attack in India, warning the neighbouring nation that the Indian Navy is now more capable than ever of striking back.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony of the submarine INS Khanderi at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, Singh said, "Our Navy is not a threat to any peace-loving nation. The truth is that the Indian Navy wants to build confidence and trust in smaller nations in the Indian Ocean. But some powers are conspiring to launch an attack like the 26/11 attack in Mumbai in our coastal areas. But their intentions and actions will never succeed.

"Pakistan should understand that today, with additions like INS Khanderi, the strong resolve of our government and advancement in naval capacity, we are capable of dealing it a much bigger blow," he said.

Singh claimed US President

Donald Trump has acknowledged the potential of the Indian government. "The visit to the US by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has showcased India's emergence as a superpower. The whole world watched as he was welcomed by top American leaders in a packed stadium. While on one hand we have taken progressive steps in Jammu and Kashmir and are receiving global support, Pakistan's Prime Minister (Imran Khan) has been running from door to door and creating content for cartoon makers," he said.

The INS Khanderi is the second of six Scorpene-Class submarines which the Mazgaon Docks Limited (MDL) is contracted to build. Construction of the INS Khanderi began in 2009. After completion, she underwent successful sea trials starting 2017, and successfully fired all its weapons.

Singh said it was a matter of pride for India to be among the select countries that build their own submarines. "The constitution of Khanderi not only benefits the ship-building industry but also helps evolve a positive culture of stringent quality control and complex engineering," Singh said.

Back in India, PM says: 'Howdy, Modi!' talking point in UN

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE 'HOWDY, Modi!' event at Houston, which was attended by United States President Donald Trump, did not just project the strong friendship between India and the US, it also became a talking point at the United Nations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Saturday.

Returning from the US to a resounding welcome organised by the BJP's Delhi unit at the Palam air base, Modi said the admiration for India has risen manifold since he took office in 2014.

"I had gone to the United States, the United Nations in 2014 as well. The difference I observed in terms of the rise in India's stature in the global stage, the respect for India in the eyes of world leaders... one of the main reasons behind that are the 130 crore Indians who helped form the government with a bigger mandate (in 2019)," Modi said.

From a makeshift dais outside the Palam air base, Modi addressed hundreds of BJP workers who were raising slogans, beating drums, and creating a



BJP leaders welcome PM Narendra Modi outside the Delhi airport on Saturday. Praveen Khanna

festive atmosphere. He reminded the crowd of the third anniversary of the 2016 surgical strikes, drawing loud cheers.

"Howdy, Modi!, that gathering in Houston, its scale and grandeur, the President's presence... the world recognises the Indo-US friendship," the PM said. "But the strength that Indians living in the US, especially those from Houston, projected in such a short time... You had the President himself, Republican party leaders, Democrats there,

important people who run the White House, so it was natural to hear words of praise from them.

"But when I reached New York and met leaders from across the world at the UN, everyone had 'Howdy, Modi!' on their lips. I saw how India won the world's heart. I want to thank the Indians settled in the US. Apart from discussions on India's might, even the prism through which India is looked at has changed. The admiration and affection for India has gone up," Modi said.

After Imran ethnic cleansing remark, RSS leader says India, Sangh are same

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

A DAY after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan took on the RSS in his speech at UN General Assembly and said the Sangh believes in "cleansing Muslims", a senior RSS leader on Saturday said Khan's anger against the organisation shows that India and the RSS have become synonyms now.

RSS joint general secretary Krishna Gopal sarcastically thanked Khan for "spreading the

RSS's name across the world". He added that he would pray that Khan does not stop doing it.

Gopal said: "The RSS is for India. We do not have any other branch in any other part of the world. Why is Pakistan angry with us? If it is angry with the Sangh, then it is angry with India. The RSS and India have now become synonymous. We also wanted the world to see India and the RSS are one and the same."

He said, "Imran-sahab has done this job very well and we congratulate him for that. He is

spreading our name."

The RSS leader's remarks came a day after Khan, while addressing the UNGA on Friday, criticised the Sangh and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said Modi's "whole life is RSS" and that the Sangh is "inspired by (dictators) Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini". Khan had said, "The RSS believes in ethnic cleansing of Muslims. RSS goons butchered hundreds of Muslims. This is an arrogance. This makes people do cruel things... Arrogance has blinded PM Modi."

'Felt Pawar was defamed because of me'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

NCP LEADER Ajit Pawar on Saturday said that he resigned as Baramati MLA as he was hurt by the inclusion of his uncle Sharad Pawar's name in a money laundering case in connection with the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank scam by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Ajit broke down in a press conference here, saying he was hurt by a smear campaign against him and his family. He also said there was no rift in the Pawar clan.

"Sharad Pawar is neither a member nor a director in the MSCB. There are 67 other people named in the FIR but it is only the name of Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar that are being highlighted. I asked myself why uncle's name is being taken and realised that it is only because I was a member of the board that my uncle was named in the ECIR," Ajit said.

Amid high drama, five-time NCP MLA Ajit resigned on Friday. On Saturday he held a meeting with his uncle and extended family at the latter's residence



Ajit Pawar breaks down at a press conference. Pradip Das

here. After the meeting, the NCP chief said Ajit would hold a press conference and explain the reasons for his decision.

"I have reached where I have in my life because of my uncle. I felt it was because of me that he was being defamed and his name incorporated in the ED case. I was uneasy about this and had been thinking for the past few days of resigning. I felt it was because of me that Pawar Saheb was being defamed at this age," Ajit said.

He said he had inquired with Assembly Speaker Haribhau Bagde about his availability three

EXPLAINED
Sympathy boost for NCP

AJIT PAWAR'S explanation for his decision to resign is set to quell speculation of unrest within the Sharad Pawar-led NCP. The NCP, which has been affected by a series of desertions by senior party leaders in the last few days, is set to benefit from the dramatic events of last week which have generated sympathy for the Pawar family.

days ago, and on Friday decided to hand in his resignation. "I did this without asking anyone. I resigned, switched off my phone and stayed at a relative's house in Mumbai. I did not know what I should say to people," he said.

Ajit also denied reports of a rift in the family. "The same thing was said when Supriya, then my son Parth and now when Rohit is about to enter politics. There is

no rift in the family. We all listen to what the elders of our family decide," Ajit said.

He broke down during the press conference saying he was hurt over his name being associated with corruption cases. "In the last elections as well they spoke about a Rs 70,000 crore irrigation scam. People will think Ajit Pawar can't do without planning scams of such large amounts. This is not right," he said.

The NCP brass was with Ajit when he addressed the media.

Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha's
Dr. B.D. JATTI HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL & POST GRADUATE RESEARCH CENTRE
D.C. Compound, DHARWAD - 580 001, Karnataka.
FEW SEATS FOR ADMISSION ARE AVAILABLE
BHMS
• Eligibility : 50% in PCB in 10+2/Inter/HSC/PUC (Science)
• NEET Eligibility is not COMPULSORY
• NEET Not Appeared students may also Apply
M.D. (Hom)
PRACTICE OF MEDICINE/ MATERIA MEDICA/ REPERTORY / ORGANON
• Eligibility : Pass in BHMS
AIA-PGET Eligibility
Interested Students / Parents may contact immediately
Dr. Anand A. Kulkarni, Principal Mob: 9845643211

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH
Room No. 104, Bapu Bhawan, Vidhan Shabha Marg, Lucknow (UP) 226001, India
Department of Energy, Government of Uttar Pradesh invites application for the following posts:-

1		Madhyanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Lucknow
2		Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd, Meerut
3	Director (Finance)	Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Varanasi
4		Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Agra

Details can be seen and downloaded from www.uppcl.org
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY (ENERGY), GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH
संख्या: 322- ज.स./पाकालि/2019-10-ज.स./96

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra
ONE FAMILY ONE BANK
15, NBCC TOWERS, 3RD FLOOR, BHICAJI CAMA PLACE, NEW DELHI - 110066
PHONE (011) 26164817/26197769, e-mail : pln_del@mahabank.co.in
PUBLIC NOTICE
Our Esteemed customers and Public in general, please note that as per IBA guidelines and decision of SLBC for Uniform Banking Hours in all Bank Branches within State of Delhi, **The Banking Hours of all 41 Branches of Bank of Maharashtra in Delhi state will be 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM w.e.f. Tuesday 01.10.2019.**
The change may be noted. **Authorised Officer, Delhi Zone**

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान भोपाल Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal
Advt No: IISERB/DOAA/2019/4 September 29, 2019
Admissions in Ph.D. Programme
Applications are invited for Ph.D. programme for the semester commencing from January 2020.
Disciplines: Biological Sciences, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Economic Sciences, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, Humanities and Social Sciences (English, Philosophy and Linguistics) and Physics.
Details of qualification, eligibility, application form and application procedure are available on www.iiserb.ac.in/phd/admission
Last Date for Receipt of Application: October 20, 2019 (Sunday)
अधिष्ठाता, शैक्षणिक कार्य

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL (DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES)
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF INDIA
22-Sham Nath Marg, Delhi-110054 Tel. 011-23989072
Extension of application dates for Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Programme
With reference to NCDC advertisement published in this newspaper on 15th August 2019, the last date of submitting application for India EIS Programme has been extended up till **31st Oct 2019**. For further details & application form, please refer to NCDC website <http://www.ncdc.gov.in>.
The training programme is subject to approval of MoHFW
dayp 17129/11/0008/1920

12

IDEA EXCHANGE

NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

It is not about Dhoni staying for next World Cup, it is about winning... Give opportunity to Pant, Samson, any young player... It is time for Indian cricket to look beyond Dhoni”

SANDEEP DWIVEDI: When you retired from cricket, you seemed reluctant to join politics. What changed?

I was always hesitant about joining politics because it is very different from the field I come from. (Cricket) is black and white... One day I was sitting with my dad and we were discussing my future plans. I had just signed the commentary contract with Star Sports. He asked me if it (commentary) excited me... I was like no, it's too boring for me. I told him that I don't want to be someone who just talks about issues and then forgets about them.

SANDEEP DWIVEDI: What made you join the BJP? Were there other options as well?

Of course I had options. There were of-fers from other political parties as well. (Late) Mr (Arun) Jaitley helped me a lot in joining the BJP. He said that people like me should get into politics. The relationship between our families went back 30 years. He kept saying that I should get into poli-tics, and that people like me could make an impact, given our energy and intent. So maybe that was one reason for joining the BJP. Then, obviously, the decisive leader-ship that the party offered was something that the nation needed. So that was proba-bly another reason that I joined the BJP. But the biggest reason was Mr Arun Jaitley.

SANDEEP DWIVEDI: In his book, Paddy Upton, the former mental conditioning coach of the Indian team, made an interesting observation about you. He said that Gautam has lots of insecurities, and that he is 'one of the most negative cricketers I have worked with'. But, at the same time, he goes on to say 'in case I want to pick one guy for a big match, I will always pick Gautam'. After you won the Cricketer Of The Year award from the International Cricket Council, you said that 'even this will not help work on my insecurities'. Can you elaborate?

The only complaint that I have with Paddy is that the timing (of his book) was-n't right. I was campaigning when the book released. I was scared that people might take it up. It is out in the open that at that stage I would say that my insecurities are far greater than my securities. There is nothing wrong in it. People do feel inse-cure. It has a lot to do with one's experi-ences. It is not that I used to feel insecure only with Paddy. Probably when I was 10 or 11 years old, I had to fight for every op-portunity that I got. I had to fight when I was playing for under-14, for under-16, even the Under-19 World Cup. So it is the experiences that I have had throughout my career which made me insecure. But I look at insecurities in a positive way. It has kept me going and made me work even harder. I was never content with my per-formances. Even when I scored a 100 or 50 runs, I would crib about it in the dressing room... Insecurities have been a very, very positive thing in my life. I actually had a de-bate with Paddy on the negativity (com-ment)... I was never cribbing. I always wanted to hit more balls, take more catches. I was the first one to arrive for practice and the last one to leave... I used to feel that every failure could push me out of the team. I wanted to be a part of the team for as long as I could, to play for India as long as I could, and to be the best crick-eter. Probably these were the reasons that made me insecure.

SANDEEP DWIVEDI: What kind of homework do you have to do as a politician?

I am trying to read a lot. I was never a big reader, I used to watch documentaries. So now I am trying to read as much as I can. I am trying to gain knowledge from my team as well. I have a very good team in place. I have got a researcher, a good polit-ical advisor. Obviously, I will gain from ex-perience over a period of time as well.

SANDEEP DWIVEDI: In the commentary box, you are now talking about people that you played with, including M S Dhoni, and there is conversation about his retirement...

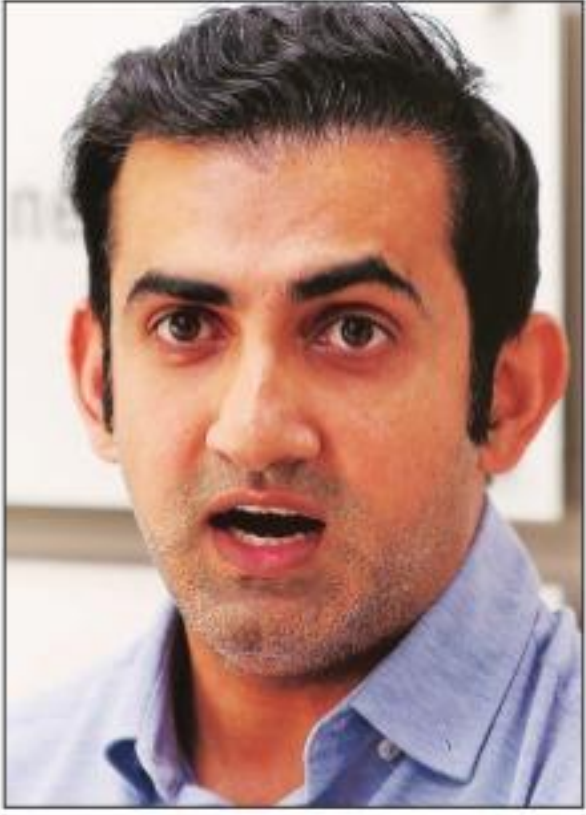
I feel that retirement is a very individ-ual decision. Till the time you want to play you are allowed to play, but you do have to look at the future as well. I do not see Dhoni playing the next World Cup. So whoever is the captain (then), Virat or any one else, should have the courage to say so, that this player is not fitting into the scheme of things. It's time for some of the youngsters to get groomed in the next four-five years, because ultimately it is not about Dhoni, it is about the country. It is not about Dhoni staying on for the next cricket World Cup, it is about win-ning the next cricket World Cup. You

WHY GAUTAM GAMBHIR



Starting out as a reluctant politician in the recent general elections, the cricketer-turned-BJP East Delhi Member of Parliament Gautam Gambhir is gradually finding his feet as a people's representative. As is the case when he wears the hat of a cricket pundit, Gambhir, in his new avatar, hasn't let political correctness

dictate his public statements either. With the important Test series against South Africa just days away, speculation on M S Dhoni's retirement rife, captain Virat Kohli's side still in transition stage and Delhi's Assembly elections expected early next year, the 37-year-old former India opener has a lot to talk about



“I am against negative polarisation, that divides society on religious lines... You cannot lynch people based on religion. Nationalism is about wanting your country to grow... I don't endorse hyper-nationalism

‘Youth, including in Valley, want growth. Nationalism is about that for me... But I am against anything that divides’

East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir says Arun Jaitley was the “biggest reason” for him joining BJP, explains why he thinks his “insecurities” helped his cricket, talks about his Twitter clash with Omar Abdullah and Shahid Afridi, and says Cong cannot be taken lightly in Delhi



Former cricketer and BJP East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir with National Sports Editor Sandeep Dwivedi in *The Indian Express* newsroom. Gajendra Yadav

might want to give the opportunity to Rishabh Pant or Sanju Samson, any young cricketer... They should get the opportu-nity... I think personally, if you ask me, I think it's time for Indian cricket to look beyond Dhoni.

MIHIR VASAVDA: As you took the political plunge, was it challenging to understand people's issues, their expectations from you?

Initially, yes, it was a challenge. The constituency was very new to me. All my life I have lived in New Delhi, I have prac-tised in New Delhi. I had hardly been to East Delhi. I was surprised that Feroz Shah Kotla (now renamed the Arun Jaitley Stadium) comes under my constituency. But you learn.

The first challenge was getting exposed to a lot of people. Earlier, I would have a small group of people around me. When you are a part of public life you are exposed to all kinds of people. It's challenging but also exciting. I realised that as a sports per-son you can only bring smiles to people's faces, but with politics, if you go in with the right intent, you can change lives.

SANDEEP DWIVEDI: On Twitter you come across as a very different person. You have had some very angry exchanges with Omar Abdullah and Shahid Afridi.

They (the Abdullahs) need to take re-sponsibility for whatever is happening in Kashmir. This is a family that has ruled Kashmir for the longest period of time... Both the Abdullahs and the Mufitis. I have been very clear on that front... I agree the (tweet) could have been a bit over the top, I am not denying that. But it hurts me a lot when a young Kashmiri doesn't get opportunities. They stand on the roads and stones are thrown. That will hurt any Indian.

(On Shahid Afridi) Some fights got set personal and there is nothing wrong with that. It has been like that for a very long time. Sometimes it is nice to get personal with someone. I have had decent rela-tionships with Pakistani players, off the field, but not with Shahid Afridi. So that is the reason we got personal. Now obviously he doesn't play but you never know, he might just make a comeback. He will never re-tire... There is a bit of history to that (the relationship with Afridi), I am fine with that.

NIHAL KOSHIE: Since the BJP has come to power, there has been a sense of hyper-nationalism attached to issues related to Kashmir, Pakistan, cows etc. Are you comfortable with it?

For me nationalism is all about growth

and development. Every youngster in the country, in every state, including Kashmir, wants opportunities. That is what nation-alism is for me. Yes I do respect the na-tional anthem, I will always respect it. I will always stand up for it. In a tweet I had said that there was nothing wrong in standing up for 52 seconds. But I am against polarisation, negative polarisation. Anything that divides the society on reli-gious lines, the lynchings... I am absolutely against it. I think you cannot lynch peo-ple on the basis of religion. I have never endorsed it. For me India is one, and it will always remain one. Nationalism is every-where, it is about treating your country like your mother... It is a feeling that you want your country to grow. I do not en-dorse hyper-nationalism.

NIHAL KOSHIE: Will you continue to speak about problematic issues in the future as well?

Why not? I am an Indian first, religion comes much later. I will always stand by what is right and what is wrong. There are two kinds of polarisation — positive and negative. Positive polarisation was a movement like the Anna Hazare move-ment and what happened after the Nirbhaya case. Anna Hazare taught us to fight against corruption. The Nirbhaya case taught us to talk about women secu-rity and safety. But lynching and dividing society are negative polarisation and I will never endorse it.

ABHINAV RAJPUT: You represent the East Delhi seat, which has been facing many issues — strikes by sanitation workers, teachers not getting salaries in municipal schools etc. The Ghazipur landfill site has crossed the height of the Qutub Minar, and the joke is that it

is now competing with the Statue of Unity. How do you plan on tackling these issues?

I am already working on a lot of the is-sues that you mentioned. The MP fund that I get for my constituency will never be enough. I am already talking to cor-porates and asking them to introduce CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) initiatives in the region.

I have also spoken to everyone I know about the waste segregation issue. I know what it is to live around the Ghazipur land-fill. The water that they drink, the air qual-ity... I know what the families go through. Young kids have stomach issues, asthma, it is absolutely inhuman. I spoke to the Environment Ministry, the Prime Minister has taken note of the Ghazipur landfill is-sue. Things have started moving in a po-sitive direction.

Education is a huge issue. There are six EDMC (East Delhi Municipal Corporation) schools in my area. They have poor infra-structure, they are in a shambles. Some corporates have decided to take up the schools and change the entire infrastruc-ture, make it more kid-friendly. I am try-ing to do the best I can with help of cor-porates because the MP fund is very limited — Rs 5 crore will never be enough.

Compared to other constituencies, my constituency has a lot more issues. For waste management, we have already started working on compost machines. Also, there are three-four big malls in my area. If they can go plastic free... I have al-ready distributed 30,000-40,000 bags. Whatever little I can do in my capacity, I will definitely do it. I promise that in my tenure there will be a solution to the Ghazipur landfill. I am not saying it will happen in six months or one year, but it will happen.

“BJP needs to tell people what they can do, and not what Kejriwal hasn't done. Who wants to listen to negativity? Earlier, people would do little but show more. Now if you do it, people will hurt you badly

MALLICA JOSHI: Delhi elections will be held in a few months. What is the BJP's plan for the polls?

I am too new... See, we can talk as much as we want about what our current Chief Minister has not delivered on. But, what we can bring to the table is also very im-portant. I think this country is growing be-yond negative politics. I think for me the most important thing is what the BJP needs to do, which is to tell people what they can bring to the table, and not what Mr Kejriwal has not achieved. So if you go to the people and tell them that this is what we can do, this is the positive poli-tics we want to do, that can make an im-pact... That can change scenarios. Who wants to listen to negativity? People today know whether development is happen-ing or not. Earlier, people would do little but show a lot more. But now if you don't do things, I am sure people are going to hurt you badly.

ANANT GOENKA: Is there some good work done by Arvind Kejriwal that you see in the city?

He keeps talking about education. But I am not going to agree with what he says about tackling dengue or what he says about air quality. That is completely, ab-solutely illogical. The air quality has im-proved, but he has not taken measures for it. He promised so many things. We will have artificial rainfall, we will have vac-uum cleaners on the road... He has hardly done anything. Where are the vacuum cleaners? Where is the artificial rainfall? Where?

On the dengue issue, the MCD has done a lot. I spoke to all the councillors. They have been working day and night on it. He (Kejriwal) can market himself as much as he wants, and he is doing it, but ultimately I am sure if we go to people with a positive thing, they will connect with us.

MALLICA JOSHI: Do you think free Metro and DTC bus rides for women, and 200 units of free electricity, will make a difference on the ground?

It's a completely political move. Do you want Delhi to be helpless? You are mak-ing people helpless. If you can afford it, do you still want a free ride? It is only putting a burden on taxpayers. For four-and-a-half years you did not think of putting up CCTV cameras, and now you have given out ten-ders worth lakhs. Wasn't women security important four-and-a-half years ago?

SANDEEP DWIVEDI: What do you have to say about Dhoni wearing the Army insignia on his wicket-keeping gloves?

See, it's fine. If he enjoys it and if it

comes from within, he is absolutely right in wearing it. But it should not be made into news. Honestly, I think, the Army doesn't need any endorsement. The Army doesn't need any marketing. I have never been in favour of honorary ranks (in de-fence forces) as well. I have been very vo-cal about it. People have given their sweat and blood to achieve that uniform. There is honorary everything, at least leave the de-fence services out of it...

Yes, M S Dhoni has done a fabulous job, going to Kashmir, serving in the Army, hats off to him. But I will not endorse peo-ple getting honorary positions in the de-fence forces.

PARVEEN K DOGRA: After winning the Lok Sabha polls, you tagged Arvind Kejriwal in a very angry tweet...

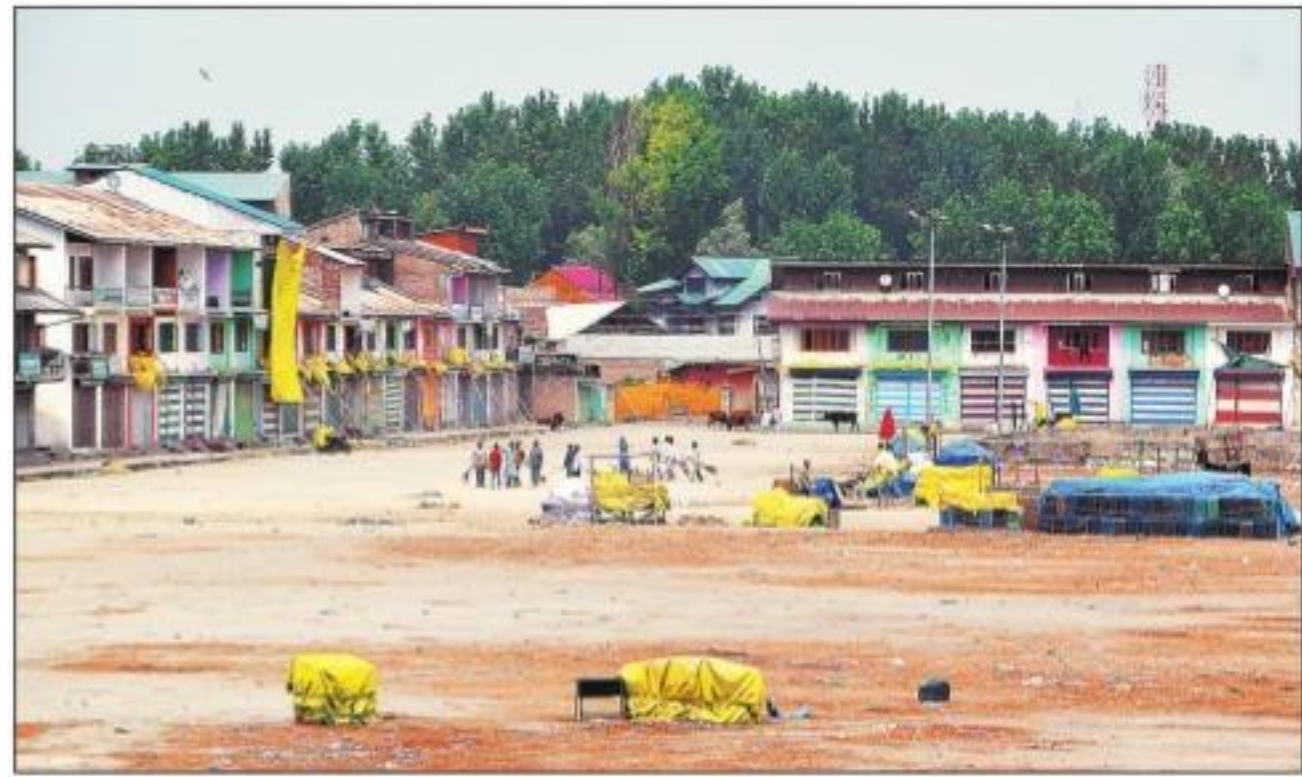
I said I was ashamed to have a CM like you... It was because of the pamphlet con-troversy. See, for me, every other contro-versy is fine. I remember when I went to file my nomination, Atishi (AAP East Delhi candidate against Gambhir) was there. I walked up to her and said all the best. I said may the best person win and that who-ever wins should be good for the people of Delhi because they deserve it. We started having a conversation... Some people said you should not have a conversation. I said why should I not have a conversation. We could have ideological differences but there are no personal differences between us. The next day, of course, they tried to cancel my nomination. Fair. Probably that's the rule of the game. Then there were FIRs filed against me... Fair enough, okay. That was fine because the court has to decide who is right and wrong. But the pamphlet controversy was something that no per-son can take. I have a family... In India, a media trial is very, very dangerous. I would never want anyone to tell my mother, my wife or my children that your father or your husband or your son has done some-thing like this. That was hitting me under the belt. Probably that was the time that I had tweeted that I feel ashamed to have a CM like him.

RITU SARIN: You are making the Delhi elections a direct contest between the AAP and the BJP? What about the Congress?

We should not take the Congress lightly. It is a national party that has run the country for 70 years. But I personally feel that the loss of Mrs Sheila Dikshit has been a huge blow for the Congress in Delhi. She was a huge face in Delhi. I think it's a fight between the BJP and AAP at the mo-ment, but you can't take the Congress lightly because it still has a legacy.



13 SUNDAY STORY



A gate of the deserted Sopore fruit mandi enclosed by concertina wires; truck drivers from outside the state at the mandi, who have been waiting 15 days to lift consignments, and for contact with families; a shut fruit mandi in Parimpora, Srinagar

AN OLIVE-green mine-proof Caspir vehicle of the Army stands in front of a long, tin-roofed platform in Sopore's fruit mandi. At Asia's second-largest apple market, these should be bustling days. But it's all quiet, the mandi's stalls empty. As the clampdown in Kashmir continues, for the first time, the apple has become a target in the Valley's three-decade-old conflict.

Realising how central the fruit was to its attempts to restore "normalcy" in Kashmir, the Central government had announced on September 5 that NAFED (the National Agricultural Produce Marketing Federation) would procure apples in the Valley — a first for the central agency. Earlier, nearly a month ago, the government had said trucks of fruits, including apples, were moving out of Kashmir, "like always". On September 25, the Army released aerial pictures from Jammu and Kashmir as well as a video captioned "loading of apples... people moving on with life".

But, with militants threatening growers against complying with government plans, figures released by the state's Horticulture Marketing and Planning Corporation (HMPC) show that till September 25, only 10,861 apple boxes (approximately 184 metric tonnes) had been procured by the authorities — a worrying fraction given the state's average annual production of nearly 20 lakh metric tonnes. The HMPC is the state's nodal agency for the procurement of apples.

In other words, as the harvest season slips away, 75 per cent of India's total apple production faces danger of being lost.

■ ■ ■

June to December are the busiest months at the Sopore fruit mandi, spread over 50 acres just outside town, with 15 auction platforms parallel to each other. This time of the year, the mandi normally employs around 5,000 people, doing the bulk of its annual business of up to Rs 2,500 crore.

The sellers reach the mandi by dawn, and after a day of transactions, truckloads of apples leave for destinations like New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, and even Bangladesh and Nepal.

These days though, its main iron gate half-shut, the mandi is deserted. Outside, a long row of shops, mostly of fruit traders, are shuttered. The only sign of life inside is at the office of the HMPC.

In orchards in most of Sopore, ripe apples are still hanging from trees — with every day past the harvest time of third week of September ominous for growers. The situation is the same in other areas of north Kashmir and in Pulwama, south Kashmir. Some growers are carrying out plucking, but discreetly, and take the fruit home, to "wait it out". "I will see how and when I can send it to the market," says a grower.

In Shopian, the Valley's second-biggest apple-growing area, the panic hasn't set in yet. Grown at a higher altitude than other fruit areas of the valley, the Shopian apples ripen later, and most varieties are harvested in the first week of October.

It is not the first time that the Valley's fruit season has coincided with a shutdown. However, through the Amarnath land row agitation of 2008 and the violent protests following militant commander Burhan Wani's killing in 2016, there was an unwritten understanding that the fruit would not be touched — while the government had taken measures in 2016 to stop night travel of apples, it was essentially done to make growers keep the Sopore mandi open during the day to break a militant-enforced shutdown.

This unwritten code was broken in the first week of September, nearly a month into the clampdown, which had been imposed ahead of the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370. First, on August 24, while talking about "normalcy" returning to Kashmir, J&K government spokesman Rohit Kansal said at a press briefing that fruit consignments are being sent to outside markets, adding, "As against 89,000 metric tonnes last year, around 1.20 lakh metric tonnes have been transported out in the corresponding period."

Then, early September, the authorities, including the police and Army, asked fruit growers to keep the Sopore mandi open during the day amidst an otherwise near-total shutdown. On September 5, the Centre announced a Market Intervention Scheme to procure apples in the Valley through NAFED, so as to "ensure good remunerative prices".

A day later, militants barged into the house of a prominent apple grower in Sopore, opened fire and left four wounded, including a five-year-old, and warned the family against going to the mandi.

In the three weeks since, posters bearing names of the Lashkar-e-Toiba and Hizbul Mujahideen have surfaced in Sopore and Shopian, asking people not to send their fruit to the markets of Delhi this year. In a statement, the J&K Police had confirmed that mil-

itants had put up the "threatening" posters in Sopore, naming some Lashkar men.

Few fruit growers are willing to talk about the militant threat. While Nazir Ahmad, from Nowpora in Sopore, does, he also blames the government. "It is for the first time that militants have interfered in the fruit business. They have been angered by the government trying to project it as a sign of normalcy. In the worst of times, like 2016 or 2010, they (militants) let us open the mandi in the morning and evening. Now they are firm that no fruit must leave."

A fruit grower from Sopore, who refuses to be named, says that this time too, they initially tried to have the same arrangement. "But then the posters surfaced," he adds, also blaming the government.

DGP Dilbagh Singh denies "forcing anyone". "We are only facilitators and our job is to ensure that if they want to do business, they can without a sense of fear," he says.

■ ■ ■

Still, there is little doubt that, for the government, apples in Kashmir are not business as usual.

Before the NAFED announcement, the Centre had organised a meeting in Delhi for fruit growers from the Valley with the federation and top government officers. Confirming this, a senior government officer in Srinagar, who refused to be named, said the scheme might have gone down better if officials on the ground had been kept in the loop. "Now a scheme launched purely to benefit growers looks politicised."

In its statement announcing the NAFED scheme, a J&K government release hinted that preparations had been on for some time. "Already a NAFED team has arrived to finalise modalities of the procurement," it said.

Fulfilling the promise is anyway a tall task for NAFED, that has never been procured apples, and opened an office in Srinagar only days before the announcement. The nodal agency usually procures oilseeds, pulses, copra, onion and cotton at minimum support prices declared by the Centre.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* earlier, a NAFED official had said, "We have been told to buy whatever is offered to us, though the indicative target is to procure 12 lakh metric tonnes. The state government will fix the prices. The total cost of operations is tenta-



A fruit grower plucking apples at his orchard in a Sopore village. They are doing so discreetly, so as to not invite the wrath of militants. Photos by Shuaib Masoodi



THE APPLE BELT

BARAMULLA



4.04 lakh metric tonnes

SHOPIAN



2.72 lakh metric tonnes

IN THE APPECART

Total worth:
Rs 8,000 cr
(8.2% of state GDP, compared to 6.89% for tourism)

Total production:
18 LAKH METRIC TONNES

Total land under production:
1.4 LAKH HECTARES

People associated with industry:
50 LAKH

■ **NAFED's rough target for procurement: 12 lakh metric tonnes, worth around Rs 5,000 cr**

■ **Procurement by govt till Sept 25: 10,861 apple boxes (around 184 metric tonnes)**

■ **Harvest season for most of Kashmir apples: Third week of September**

■ **Harvest season for Shopian apples: First week of October**

EXPLAINED

'Neglected' trade feels pain

IT'S BEEN a long-standing demand of apple growers that their trade be given industry status, given its importance to the state's economy — a treatment they see as step-motherly compared to the tourism industry, which invites most of the talk and attention. The latest blow may add to the trust deficit.

tively assessed at Rs 5,000 crore."

The procurement was to start from September 12, and the entire process finished by mid-December.

Ghulam Mohammad Dar, who has been given additional charge of HMPC (the agency handling the procurement at the state level), hopes things will get better. "Ultimately it is up to the people to sell to us or not. The response is not up to expectations but we are really hopeful it will improve," he says. Dar was brought in after HMPC Director Shah Nawaz Bikhari was shifted out last week, a move that has done little to reassure growers.

In Shopian, the district administration has publicised the NAFED scheme through fliers in Urdu, and TV and radio advertisements. "People have started coming to us to reserve their spots for auctions. Many people have established business relations but some are coming to us as well," Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Choudhary Mohammad Yasin told *The Sunday Express*.

Irrespective of the militant threats though, growers say, they had other doubts about selling to NAFED. Says Shah Nawaz Ahmad, an orchardist from Shopian, "It is none of the government's business (whom we sell to). The industry has a set procedure. We are bound by a contract, and get advance money from the big fruit dealers in Delhi and Kashmir on the promise that we will sell our

produce to them. They even arrange the pesticides for us."

Farooq Wani, an apple grower from Shopian, also argues the same, saying they will not sell to the government. "We have long-standing relationships with partners in different parts of the country, we borrow money from them. How can we not deliver?"

Another grower, Ishaq Ahmad, says that for some varieties, the government offer is better, "but we cannot tell traders who help us when we need money that we cannot get produce to them. For us, it would be better if transportation could be allowed".

A report prepared by the government after the militant threats shows that fruit dealers from outside Kashmir, mostly from the Azadpur fruit market in Delhi, have given more than Rs 4,000 crore as advance to Valley growers. M R Kriplani, the President of the Azadpur Fruit Merchants' Association, says they have given "anything between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,200 crore as advance". "Though we are receiving some fruit from Sopore belt, no fruit has come from Shopian so far," he adds. "It is far less than what we used to receive... It has an impact."

In Shopian, for example, as per the district administration, about 40 per cent of the produce and in neighbouring Pulwama, only about 10 per cent, comes to mandis for auction. The rest travels through established channels to traders as far as Bengaluru.

Meanwhile, as they struggle to contact their buyers outside the Valley amidst the information blackout, the growers say rates being offered are down by more than 30 per cent, as dealers sense their desperation. "In the past, we would call our dealer in Delhi five times a day and if we felt the prices were not competitive, ask them not to sell. We would even store the fruit in cold storage and take out when rates increased," says Abdul Qayoom, a fruit grower from Pulwama. "With no communication, our dealers are selling the fruit at prices of their choice. We come to know four or five days later."

Denying this, Kriplani says they set the price purely as per the colour of the produce. "As the rains have been low in Kashmir this season, the apple has not coloured well."

■ ■ ■

NAFED has set up four procurement centres — at Sopore fruit mandi, Aglar fruit

mandi in Shopian, Parimpora fruit mandi in Srinagar and Botengo fruit mandi in Anantnag. Official figures reveal that only 1,303 fruit boxes have been procured by the government in Sopore while the process is yet to begin in Shopian.

A member of the Sopore Fruit Association, who doesn't want to be named, says the idea of setting up procurement centres at the mandi itself was wrong. "Our problem is harvesting the fruit, packaging it and then transporting it to the mandi. If we can get it to the mandi, we can send it outside as well, and for prices far better than the government's. In these circumstances, what and where is the positive role of NAFED?"

From the orchards to the mandi is generally a process spread over several days. The plucked fruit is spread over a tarpaulin at the orchard, apples of different sizes and colours separated, graded 'A' (the best quality), 'B' or 'C' accordingly, with bigger size and deeper colour fetching better prices, and then packed in boxes. Given militant threats, the process now must be carried out discreetly.

Some growers complain that the government's grading process for apples is flawed as it focuses only on colour. "There are other factors like size, how free the fruit is from diseases," says Mohammad Qayim, a fruit grower from Pattan in north Kashmir.

The highest price the government is offering is Rs 52 per kg, for the 'A' grade apples of Delicious variety — a sweet apple, it is the most sought after. The other most-popular varieties are 'American' and 'Maharaji', which have longer shelf lives.

Last year, the 'A' grade apple of 'Kulu' variety, the first to get to the markets in the Valley, went for Rs 64 per kg on an average.

■ ■ ■

J&K's total apple economy is estimated at Rs 8,000 crore (roughly 8.2 per cent of its GDP, concentrated almost entirely in Kashmir). In comparison, tourism comprised 6.89 per cent of its GDP (92 per cent of that earned by the Vaishno Devi Shrine in Jammu alone) as per the 2017 Economic Survey.

The survey put the number of people directly or indirectly associated with horticulture in the state — a major part of which comprises apples — at seven lakh families, or 33 lakh people. The latest official figures put the number at close to 50 lakh people.

The Economic Survey put the total apple production in the state for 2016-17 at 17.26 lakh metric tonnes, which last year, as per government figures, had risen to 18 lakh metric tonnes. Apart from this, as the Survey pointed out, 5.18 lakh metric tonnes of apple on an average are culled or fall off before harvest and are used for preparing juice and jams.

Official data shows over 1.45 lakh hectares of land in the Valley is under apple cultivation. North Kashmir's Baramulla district, which includes Sopore, has the highest area under apples, over 25,000 hectares, followed by Shopian in South Kashmir where apples are grown on 21,000 hectares.

As the imbroglia continues, the growers are hoping their apples won't go the way of the Valley's pears, which almost completely went waste this year. A fruit with a small shelf life, pear ripens in August and the growers have only a fortnight to harvest and transport the fruit to markets, including outside the Valley. Most couldn't manage it this year once the clampdown set in, while others who did, saw rates plummet. "A box of pear (on an average 17 kg) would fetch us around Rs 500-600," says Irshad-ul-Haq, a fruit grower from Sopore. "This time, we got barely Rs 300 a box, just covering our cost."

Also counting their losses are truckers like Manjit Singh, from Haryana, who has been waiting outside the Sopore mandi for 17 days, without any means of contacting families back home. "We wait the whole year for the fruit season to begin. September-November are our most profitable months. But this time, we are facing huge losses," he says, adding how even 2016 wasn't this bad.

Trying to put up a brave face, the owner of a cold storage plant who did not want to be identified, says they realise this time is "different". "The issue is also constitutional as well as sentimental, and even if we suffer losses this year, we will be fine."

Adds a fruit grower from Pulwama, "We are ready for the loss of this season's crop, if it helps in some sort of resolution of the Kashmir issue."

The more realistic hope is that militant pressure will ease now, after the United Nations General Assembly session, where they had hoped to put the Indian government under pressure over Kashmir.

Should that happen, the apples would fly. Less than 100 metres from the desolate Sopore fruit market, stand hundreds of trucks, mostly from outside the state, waiting to take the fruit to all corners of the country.

WITH INPUTS FROM NAVEED IQBAL

14 BIG PICTURE

(Anti-clockwise from below) Bhateri Devi at the Hisar clinic in 2010, days after she had given birth to triplets; of her three babies, one, Bhupesh, weighed a mere 780 gm and died 21 days after birth; Devi with her twins Bhupender and Isha, now 9, at their home in Satrod village in Hisar



BHATERI & KIDS

With a 74-yr-old woman in Andhra becoming the oldest to give birth, ANKITA DWIVEDI JOHRI rewinds to a case of 2010, when a 66-yr-old from Hisar had delivered triplets, triggering a debate around medical ethics and an age limit on women opting for IVF. Nine years and many battles later, Bhateri Devi says she has no doubts — “I’ll be around for my kids”. With TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA

PHOTOGRAPHS: PRAVEEN KHANNA

ISHA IS sprawled on a cot, three mobile phones lined in front of her. “Yeh mummy ka, yeh papa ka, aur yeh badaaawa, yeh mera hai” (This is my mother’s, this was father’s, and this big one, is mine), she chuckles. From the other end of the room, her brother Bhupender makes a dash for the bed and says forcefully, “Yeh mera bhi hai” (The phone is mine too). And with that, the nine-year-old twins get into an argument, each vehemently staking claim on the Intel handset.

Sitting on a chair nearby, their mother Bhateri Devi, 75, laughs indulgently. Dressed in a powder green *salwar-kameez*, a *dupatta* barely concealing her *henna*-streaked grey hair, and with large loops training her ear lobes, she says, in Haryana, “As long as they play and fight in the house, I am fine. I don’t let them venture out too much. I was blessed with them after a long struggle.”

On May 29, 2010, the then 66-year-old from Satrod village in Haryana’s Hisar district had given birth to triplets, two sons and a daughter, after nearly 50 years of marriage, and three cycles of in-vitro fertilisation. The delivery, hailed as a “miracle” in medical circles, aroused curiosity and decision in equal measure, with the media descending in hordes to catch a glimpse of the wonder woman and her babies. Unknown to Bhateri and her triplets, a debate swirled around the question of medical ethics and the lack of regulation surrounding Assisted Reproductive Techniques (ART) such as in-vitro fertilisation (IVF).

This debate was revived on September 5 this year, when, nearly 2,000 km from Hisar, 74-year-old Erramatti Mangayamma

successful IVF cases among women aged 50 and above at around 50 in a little over a decade, cases of women above 60 opting for IVF are even rarer. At the same time, a National ART Registry of India maintained by the ISAR — a body of IVF experts advocating for better practices — estimates that over a lakh ART procedures, including IVF, are conducted every year in India.

While IVF expert Dr S Umashankar of Ahalya Nursing Home, where Mangayamma of Guntur delivered her twins, says he conducted “all necessary tests” on the 74-year-old and she was “found medically fit” for the procedure, other experts say there is a reason why pregnancy, even through IVF, is avoided after menopause.

“Pregnancy changes a woman’s metabolism, pushing her body to the limits. Medically speaking, it is like getting the elderly to climb Mount Everest,” says Dr V Padmaja, Chairperson of the Andhra Pradesh chapter of the ISAR.

While the ICMR released guidelines for ART in 2005, it mentioned no upper age limit for women at the time because until then, the issue of the elderly opting for the procedure hadn’t surfaced. It was sometime in 2010, around the time that Devi delivered her triplets in Hisar, that the debate over an upper age-limit picked pace.

In 2011, the ICMR formulated guidelines allowing IVF only for women aged 45 and below, a cap that the Assisted Reproductive Technologies (Regulation) Bill, which was drafted in 2010, stuck to. But with the Bill now in cold storage, there is little clarity.

“There is no law yet, so no legal action is possible in cases where ART clinics don’t follow our guidelines. We expect them to self-regulate,” says ICMR scientist R S Sharma.

In the absence of a law, even if ICMR, for instance, cancels a clinic’s registration number, it is free to practise. Besides, couples rarely look up the ICMR registration status before approaching a clinic or expert.

Agra-based IVF expert Dr Narendra Malhotra says while medical complications are one reason to avoid IVF for elderly couples, there’s another ethical dilemma: “Will these parents be around till the time their children turn adults? Shouldn’t we worry about that?”

While the Indian Society of Assistive Reproduction (ISAR) sets the number of



(From left to right) Isha and Bhupender pore through albums, one to mark each of their birthdays; with the phone their father bought them two years ago; a photograph from the family album of the children with Devi and her husband Dewa Singh, who died in March. “He was desperate for children and I wanted to have them for his sake,” says Devi

questions of “good news”, before sliding into ostracism and even assault.

Slowly walking around her two-storey house, her shoulders only slightly bent, Devi says she hasn’t heard of Mangayamma or Guntur, but is not surprised that a woman would go to such great lengths for a child.

“Only a childless couple will know what it is to go through life without children. The taunts, seeing other families with children... it’s very tough. My husband was desperate for children and I wanted to have them for his sake,” she says.

For several years, she consulted a doctor in the village. “One day, when I was completely dejected, he told me about a clinic in Hisar that could help. I didn’t waste any time, and told my husband Dewa Singh about it. Within eight months I conceived,” she says, a smile stretching across her creased face.

Devi says Singh took a loan of Rs 7 lakh for her IVF treatment. “We had everything... land, home, but no children. The children made us complete,” says Devi.

She dismisses any concerns over her health — “I was healthy then and I am healthy now... My knees give me a little trouble, but it’s nothing serious.”

Then, pointing to a photograph of her husband and herself in the house, she says, “*Dekho kina mota tagda tha* (See how strong he was). He was four years younger than me. When I gave birth, people said I was old, unfit... But Dewa Singh died of blood cancer in March this year, before me. Now people say nothing to say,” she says.

In the living room of their new home, into which they moved after Singh’s death, the twins are still quarrelling over the “big phone”. Isha, her hair cut in a short bob, is in her school shirt and Bhupender has just finished his lunch of *paranths*.

After another failed attempt to break up their fight, Devi says, “Their father gave Isha the phone two years ago on her birthday. Bhupender got a cycle. But she shares the phone with him,” Isha shoots back. “But he doesn’t share his cycle with me...”

Ignoring her daughter’s quibble, Devi continues, “Every year Dewa Singh used to throw

them a big birthday party. He would call all our relatives, there would be a lot of food...” The twins light up at the mention of their birthday, and rush to the bedroom.

They return with a pile of albums, one for each of their eight birthdays. “They turned 9 in May this year, but we did not celebrate it because of their father’s death. I will do it next year,” says Devi, as her children pore over the photographs.

“That is me,” says Isha, pointing to a photograph of herself on her seventh birthday. “She is dressed like a boy,” Bhupender teases her. “I wanted clothes just like him, so papa got me shirt and trousers,” she responds. The photograph has Singh and Devi standing behind their children, as they prepare to cut the cake.

Since Singh’s death, Devi has got her younger sister, Nani Devi, in her 60s, to move in with her to help with the children. “I have also been doing a lot of paperwork... I never thought I would have to do all this. I have just come back from the *panwali* (land officer). After Dewa Singh’s death, I have to now get all the land — 20 acres of it — transferred in my name. For now, I have given the land on rent,” she says.

In the bedroom, Isha, who is still flipping through the albums, lets out a squeal as she pulls out an old newspaper from the album stack. On the front page of a frail Devi with the triplets in the hospital, taken a few days af-

ter the Caesarean delivery.

“That’s me at the centre, Bhupender on the left, and that is our brother Bhupesh — *win mar gayu* (he died),” says Isha, now turning to her mother. “He was born with low birth weight. He died 21 days after birth. I took a lot of care, but we couldn’t save him,” says Devi.

“That’s me,” says Isha, pointing to a photograph of herself on her seventh birthday. “She is dressed like a boy,” Bhupender teases her. “I wanted clothes just like him, so papa got me shirt and trousers,” she responds. The photograph has Singh and Devi standing behind their children, as they prepare to cut the cake.

Since Singh’s death, Devi has got her younger sister, Nani Devi, in her 60s, to move in with her to help with the children. “I have also been doing a lot of paperwork... I never thought I would have to do all this. I have just come back from the *panwali* (land officer). After Dewa Singh’s death, I have to now get all the land — 20 acres of it — transferred in my name. For now, I have given the land on rent,” she says.

In the bedroom, Isha, who is still flipping through the albums, lets out a squeal as she pulls out an old newspaper from the album stack. On the front page of a frail Devi with the triplets in the hospital, taken a few days af-

ter the Caesarean delivery.

“That’s me at the centre, Bhupender on the left, and that is our brother Bhupesh — *win mar gayu* (he died),” says Isha, now turning to her mother. “He was born with low birth weight. He died 21 days after birth. I took a lot of care, but we couldn’t save him,” says Devi.

“That’s me,” says Isha, pointing to a photograph of herself on her seventh birthday. “She is dressed like a boy,” Bhupender teases her. “I wanted clothes just like him, so papa got me shirt and trousers,” she responds. The photograph has Singh and Devi standing behind their children, as they prepare to cut the cake.

Since Singh’s death, Devi has got her younger sister, Nani Devi, in her 60s, to move in with her to help with the children. “I have also been doing a lot of paperwork... I never thought I would have to do all this. I have just come back from the *panwali* (land officer). After Dewa Singh’s death, I have to now get all the land — 20 acres of it — transferred in my name. For now, I have given the land on rent,” she says.

In the bedroom, Isha, who is still flipping through the albums, lets out a squeal as she pulls out an old newspaper from the album stack. On the front page of a frail Devi with the triplets in the hospital, taken a few days af-

ter the Caesarean delivery.

“That’s me at the centre, Bhupender on the left, and that is our brother Bhupesh — *win mar gayu* (he died),” says Isha, now turning to her mother. “He was born with low birth weight. He died 21 days after birth. I took a lot of care, but we couldn’t save him,” says Devi.

“That’s me,” says Isha, pointing to a photograph of herself on her seventh birthday. “She is dressed like a boy,” Bhupender teases her. “I wanted clothes just like him, so papa got me shirt and trousers,” she responds. The photograph has Singh and Devi standing behind their children, as they prepare to cut the cake.

Since Singh’s death, Devi has got her younger sister, Nani Devi, in her 60s, to move in with her to help with the children. “I have also been doing a lot of paperwork... I never thought I would have to do all this. I have just come back from the *panwali* (land officer). After Dewa Singh’s death, I have to now get all the land — 20 acres of it — transferred in my name. For now, I have given the land on rent,” she says.

In the bedroom, Isha, who is still flipping through the albums, lets out a squeal as she pulls out an old newspaper from the album stack. On the front page of a frail Devi with the triplets in the hospital, taken a few days af-

ter the Caesarean delivery.

“That’s me at the centre, Bhupender on the left, and that is our brother Bhupesh — *win mar gayu* (he died),” says Isha, now turning to her mother. “He was born with low birth weight. He died 21 days after birth. I took a lot of care, but we couldn’t save him,” says Devi.

“That’s me,” says Isha, pointing to a photograph of herself on her seventh birthday. “She is dressed like a boy,” Bhupender teases her. “I wanted clothes just like him, so papa got me shirt and trousers,” she responds. The photograph has Singh and Devi standing behind their children, as they prepare to cut the cake.

Since Singh’s death, Devi has got her younger sister, Nani Devi, in her 60s, to move in with her to help with the children. “I have also been doing a lot of paperwork... I never thought I would have to do all this. I have just come back from the *panwali* (land officer). After Dewa Singh’s death, I have to now get all the land — 20 acres of it — transferred in my name. For now, I have given the land on rent,” she says.

In the bedroom, Isha, who is still flipping through the albums, lets out a squeal as she pulls out an old newspaper from the album stack. On the front page of a frail Devi with the triplets in the hospital, taken a few days af-

ter the Caesarean delivery.

“That’s me at the centre, Bhupender on the left, and that is our brother Bhupesh — *win mar gayu* (he died),” says Isha, now turning to her mother. “He was born with low birth weight. He died 21 days after birth. I took a lot of care, but we couldn’t save him,” says Devi.

“That’s me,” says Isha, pointing to a photograph of herself on her seventh birthday. “She is dressed like a boy,” Bhupender teases her. “I wanted clothes just like him, so papa got me shirt and trousers,” she responds. The photograph has Singh and Devi standing behind their children, as they prepare to cut the cake.

Since Singh’s death, Devi has got her younger sister, Nani Devi, in her 60s, to move in with her to help with the children. “I have also been doing a lot of paperwork... I never thought I would have to do all this. I have just come back from the *panwali* (land officer). After Dewa Singh’s death, I have to now get all the land — 20 acres of it — transferred in my name. For now, I have given the land on rent,” she says.

In the bedroom, Isha, who is still flipping through the albums, lets out a squeal as she pulls out an old newspaper from the album stack. On the front page of a frail Devi with the triplets in the hospital, taken a few days af-

ter the Caesarean delivery.

“That’s me at the centre, Bhupender on the left, and that is our brother Bhupesh — *win mar gayu* (he died),” says Isha, now turning to her mother. “He was born with low birth weight. He died 21 days after birth. I took a lot of care, but we couldn’t save him,” says Devi.

“That’s me,” says Isha, pointing to a photograph of herself on her seventh birthday. “She is dressed like a boy,” Bhupender teases her. “I wanted clothes just like him, so papa got me shirt and trousers,” she responds. The photograph has Singh and Devi standing behind their children, as they prepare to cut the cake.

Since Singh’s death, Devi has got her younger sister, Nani Devi, in her 60s, to move in with her to help with the children. “I have also been doing a lot of paperwork... I never thought I would have to do all this. I have just come back from the *panwali* (land officer). After Dewa Singh’s death, I have to now get all the land — 20 acres of it — transferred in my name. For now, I have given the land on rent,” she says.

In the bedroom, Isha, who is still flipping through the albums, lets out a squeal as she pulls out an old newspaper from the album stack. On the front page of a frail Devi with the triplets in the hospital, taken a few days af-

ter the Caesarean delivery.

“That’s me at the centre, Bhupender on the left, and that is our brother Bhupesh — *win mar gayu* (he died),” says Isha, now turning to her mother. “He was born with low birth weight. He died 21 days after birth. I took a lot of care, but we couldn’t save him,” says Devi.

“That’s me,” says Isha, pointing to a photograph of herself on her seventh birthday. “She is dressed like a boy,” Bhupender teases her. “I wanted clothes just like him, so papa got me shirt and trousers,” she responds. The photograph has Singh and Devi standing behind their children, as they prepare to cut the cake.

Since Singh’s death, Devi has got her younger sister, Nani Devi, in her 60s, to move in with her to help with the children. “I have also been doing a lot of paperwork... I never thought I would have to do all this. I have just come back from the *panwali* (land officer). After Dewa Singh’s death, I have to now get all the land — 20 acres of it — transferred in my name. For now, I have given the land on rent,” she says.

In the bedroom, Isha, who is still flipping through the albums, lets out a squeal as she pulls out an old newspaper from the album stack. On the front page of a frail Devi with the triplets in the hospital, taken a few days af-

ter the Caesarean delivery.

“That’s me at the centre, Bhupender on the left, and that is our brother Bhupesh — *win mar gayu* (he died),” says Isha, now turning to her mother. “He was born with low birth weight. He died 21 days after birth. I took a lot of care, but we couldn’t save him,” says Devi.

“That’s me,” says Isha, pointing to a photograph of herself on her seventh birthday. “She is dressed like a boy,” Bhupender teases her. “I wanted clothes just like him, so papa got me shirt and trousers,” she responds. The photograph has Singh and Devi standing behind their children, as they prepare to cut the cake.

Since Singh’s death, Devi has got her younger sister, Nani Devi, in her 60s, to move in with her to help with the children. “I have also been doing a lot of paperwork... I never thought I would have to do all this. I have just come back from the *panwali* (land officer). After Dewa Singh’s death, I have to now get all the land — 20 acres of it — transferred in my name. For now, I have given the land on rent,” she says.

In the bedroom, Isha, who is still flipping through the albums, lets out a squeal as she pulls out an old newspaper from the album stack. On the front page of a frail Devi with the triplets in the hospital, taken a few days af-

ter the Caesarean delivery.

“That’s me at the centre, Bhupender on the left, and that is our brother Bhupesh — *win mar gayu* (he died),” says Isha, now turning to her mother. “He was born with low birth weight. He died 21 days after birth. I took a lot of care, but we couldn’t save him,” says Devi.

“That’s me,” says Isha, pointing to a photograph of herself on her seventh birthday. “She is dressed like a boy,” Bhupender teases her. “I wanted clothes just like him, so papa got me shirt and trousers,” she responds. The photograph has Singh and Devi standing behind their children, as they prepare to cut the cake.

Since Singh’s death, Devi has got her younger sister, Nani Devi, in her 60s, to move in with her to help with the children. “I have also been doing a lot of paperwork... I never thought I would have to do all this. I have just come back from the *panwali* (land officer). After Dewa Singh’s death, I have to now get all the land — 20 acres of it — transferred in my name. For now, I have given the land on rent,” she says.

In the bedroom, Isha, who is still flipping through the albums, lets out a squeal as she pulls out an old newspaper from the album stack. On the front page of a frail Devi with the triplets in the hospital, taken a few days af-

ter the Caesarean delivery.

“That’s me at the centre, Bhupender on the left, and that is our brother Bhupesh — *win mar gayu* (he died),” says Isha, now turning to her mother. “He was born with low birth weight. He died 21 days after birth. I took a lot of care, but we couldn’t save him,” says Devi.

“That’s me,” says Isha, pointing to a photograph of herself on her seventh birthday. “She is dressed like a boy,” Bhupender teases her. “I wanted clothes just like him, so papa got me shirt and trousers,” she responds. The photograph has Singh and Devi standing behind their children, as they prepare to cut the cake.

Since Singh’s death, Devi has got her younger sister, Nani Devi, in her 60s, to move in with her to help with the children. “I have also been doing a lot of paperwork... I never thought I would have to do all this. I have just come back from the *panwali* (land officer). After Dewa Singh’s death, I have to now get all the land — 20 acres of it — transferred in my name. For now, I have given the land on rent,” she says.

In the bedroom, Isha, who is still flipping through the albums, lets out a squeal as she pulls out an old newspaper from the album stack. On the front page of a frail Devi with the triplets in the hospital, taken a few days af-

ter the Caesarean delivery.

“That’s me at the centre, Bhupender on the left, and that is our brother Bhupesh — *win mar gayu* (he died),” says Isha, now turning to her mother. “He was born with low birth weight. He died 21 days after birth. I took a lot of care, but we couldn’t save him,” says Devi.

“That’s me,” says Isha, pointing to a photograph of herself on her seventh birthday. “She is dressed like a boy,” Bhupender teases her. “I wanted clothes just like him, so papa got me shirt and trousers,” she responds. The photograph has Singh and Devi standing behind their children, as they prepare to cut the cake.

Since Singh’s death, Devi has got her younger sister, Nani Devi, in her 60s, to move in with her to help with the children. “I have also been doing a lot of paperwork... I never thought I would have to do all this. I have just come back from the *panwali* (land officer). After Dewa Singh’s death, I have to now get all the land — 20 acres of it — transferred in my name. For now, I have given the land on rent,” she says.

In the bedroom, Isha, who is still flipping through the albums, lets out a squeal as she pulls out an old newspaper from the album stack. On the front page of a frail Devi with the triplets in the hospital, taken a few days af-

ter the Caesarean delivery.

“That’s me at the centre, Bhupender on the left, and that is our brother Bhupesh — *win mar gayu* (he died),” says Isha, now turning to her mother. “He was born with low birth weight. He died 21 days after birth. I took a lot of care, but we couldn’t save him,” says Devi.

“That’s me,” says Isha, pointing to a photograph of herself on her seventh birthday. “She is dressed like a boy,” Bhupender teases her. “I wanted clothes just like him, so papa got me shirt and trousers,” she responds. The photograph has Singh and Devi standing behind their children, as they prepare to cut the cake.

Since Singh’s death, Devi has got her younger sister, Nani Devi, in her 60s, to move in with her to help with the children. “I have also been doing a lot of paperwork... I never thought I would have to do all this. I have just come back from the *panwali* (land officer). After Dewa Singh’s death, I have to now get all the land — 20 acres of it — transferred in my name. For now, I have given the land on rent,” she says.

In the bedroom, Isha, who is still flipping through the albums, lets out a squeal as she pulls out an old newspaper from the album stack. On the front page of a frail Devi with the triplets in the hospital, taken a few days af-

ter the Caesarean delivery.

“That’s me at the centre, Bhupender on the left, and that is our brother Bhupesh — *win mar gayu* (he died),” says Isha, now turning to her mother. “He was born with low birth weight. He died 21 days after birth. I took a lot of care, but we couldn’t save him,” says Devi.

“That’s me,” says Isha, pointing to a photograph of herself on her seventh birthday. “She is dressed like a boy,” Bhupender teases her. “I wanted clothes just like him, so papa got me shirt and trousers,” she responds. The photograph has Singh and Devi standing behind their children, as they prepare to cut the cake.

Since Singh’s death, Devi has got her younger sister, Nani Devi, in her 60s, to move in with her to help with the children. “I have also been doing a lot of paperwork... I never thought I would have to do all this. I have just come back from the *panwali* (land officer). After Dewa Singh’s death, I have to now get all the land — 20 acres of it — transferred in my name. For now, I have given the land on rent,” she says.

In the bedroom, Isha, who is still flipping through the albums, lets out a squeal as she pulls out an old newspaper from the album stack. On the front page of a frail Devi with the triplets in the hospital, taken a few days af-

ter the Caesarean delivery.

“That’s me at the centre, Bhupender on the left, and that is our brother Bhupesh — *win mar gayu* (he died),” says Isha, now turning to her mother. “He was born with low birth weight. He died 21 days after birth. I took a lot of care, but we couldn’t save him,” says Devi.

“That’s me,” says Isha, pointing to a photograph of herself on her seventh birthday. “She is dressed like a boy,” Bhupender teases her. “I wanted clothes just like him, so papa got me shirt and trousers,” she responds. The photograph has Singh and Devi standing behind their children, as they prepare to cut the cake.

Since Singh’s death, Devi has got her younger sister, Nani Devi, in her 60s, to move in with her to help with the children. “I have also been doing a lot of paperwork... I never thought I would have to do all this. I have just come back from the *panwali* (land officer). After Dewa Singh’s death, I have to now get all the land — 20 acres of it — transferred in my name. For now, I have given the land on rent,” she says.

In the bedroom, Isha, who is still flipping through the albums, lets out a squeal as she pulls out an old newspaper from the album stack. On the front page of a frail Devi with the triplets in the hospital, taken a few days af-

ter the Caesarean delivery.

“That’s me at the centre, Bhupender on the left, and that is our brother Bhupesh — *win mar gayu* (he died),” says Isha, now turning to her mother. “He was born with low birth weight. He died 21 days after birth. I took a lot of care, but we couldn’t save him,” says Devi.

“That’s me,” says Isha, pointing to a photograph of herself on her seventh birthday. “She is dressed like a boy,” Bhupender teases her. “I wanted clothes just like him, so papa got me shirt and trousers,” she responds. The photograph has Singh and Devi standing behind their children, as they prepare to cut the cake.

Since Singh’s death, Devi has got her younger sister, Nani Devi, in her 60s, to move in with her to help with the children. “I have also been doing a lot of paperwork... I never thought I would have to do all this. I have just come back from the *panwali* (land officer). After Dewa Singh’s death, I have to now get all the land — 20 acres of it — transferred in my name. For now, I have given the land on rent,” she says.

In the bedroom, Isha, who is still flipping through the albums, lets out a squeal as she pulls out an old newspaper from the album stack. On the front page of a frail Devi with the triplets in the hospital, taken a few days af-

ter the Caesarean delivery.

“That’s me at the centre, Bhupender on the left, and that is our brother Bhupesh — *win mar gayu* (he died),” says Isha, now turning to her mother. “He was born with low birth weight. He died 21 days after birth. I took a lot of care, but we couldn’t save him,” says Devi.

“That’s me,” says Isha, pointing to a photograph of herself on her seventh birthday. “She is dressed like a boy,” Bhupender teases her. “I wanted clothes just like him, so papa got me shirt and trousers,” she responds. The photograph has Singh and Devi standing behind their children, as they prepare to cut the cake.

Since Singh’s death, Devi has got her younger sister, Nani Devi, in her 60s, to move in with her to help with the children. “I have also been doing a lot of paperwork... I never thought I would have to do all this. I have just come back from the *panwali* (land officer). After Dewa Singh’s death, I have to now get all the land — 20 acres of it — transferred in my name. For now, I have given the land on rent,” she says.

In the bedroom, Isha, who is still flipping through the albums, lets out a squeal as she pulls out an old newspaper from the album stack. On the front page of a frail Devi with the triplets in the hospital, taken a few days af-

ter the Caesarean delivery.

“That’s me at the centre, Bhupender on the left, and that is our brother Bhupesh — *win mar gayu* (he died),” says Isha, now turning to her mother. “He was born with low birth weight. He died 21 days after birth. I took a lot of care, but we couldn’t save him,” says Devi.

“That’s me,” says Isha, pointing to a photograph of herself on her seventh birthday. “She is dressed like a boy,” Bhupender teases her. “I wanted clothes just like him, so papa got me shirt and trousers,” she responds. The photograph has Singh and Devi standing behind their children, as they prepare to cut the cake.

Since Singh’s death, Devi has got her younger sister, Nani Devi, in her 60s, to move in with her to help with the children. “I have also been doing a lot of paperwork... I never thought I would have to do all this. I have just come back from the *panwali* (land officer). After Dewa Singh’s death, I have to now get all the land — 20 acres of it — transferred in my name. For now, I have given the land on rent,” she says.

In the bedroom, Isha, who is still flipping through the albums, lets out a squeal as she pulls out an old newspaper from the album

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A JAN AUSHADHI STORE SELLING RE 1 SANITARY NAPKINS



Yasmita Arora says she is used to buyers using all kinds of gestures and sign language to ask for napkins. She has been selling 500 pads in two days. Koel Banerjee

KOEL BANERJEE

“*Sirf ek rupay* (only Re 1)!” Throughout the day, those dropping in at the Jan Aushadhi medical store in Shakarpur, East Delhi, can barely disguise their surprise.

Among them Alvira Mukherjee, a teacher at Vivekananda College in Vivek Vihar, Delhi, who stops over on way back home to Laxmi Nagar from college. So, instead of one pack of Suvidha oxo-biodegradable sanitary pads, Mukherjee, 27, decides to buy two. “I regularly buy medicines from this store, but was unaware these pads were available for just Re 1,” she says.

It’s been a month since the government slashed the cost of these pads — from Rs 10 for a pack of four to Rs 4. Made by the Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India (BPPI), the pads were first launched last year in June under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana, which aims to provide “quality generic medicines at affordable prices” through Jan Aushadhi stores like these. The Re 1 pads were launched on August 27 this year.

In its manifesto, the BJP had promised sanitary napkins at this minimal price, calling it part of efforts to ensure availability of reproductive and menstrual health services to women across India. “This promise was honoured by re-launching the pads at Re 1,” BPPI CEO Sachin Singh told *The Sunday Express* over email. “It will also help in fulfilling the Prime Minister’s dream of ‘Clean India & Green India’ as these pads are oxo-biodegradable and environment friendly.”

Yasmita Arora, the owner of the Shakarpur Jan Aushadhi store, says customers, cutting across age, gender and class, have been buying the pads for themselves, their wives and daughters or relatives. While earlier she would sell around 500 of the Rs 10 pads per week, she has been selling as many in two days now, Arora says.

But it’s Arora who has to tell customers about the new price first. “When Suvidha was launched, the government had distributed 100 packets each to all Jan Aushadhi kendras for free, and put up banners advertising the same. This time the government has not taken any such initiative, and

My pad

Customers, including men, are lining up, for family, relatives, delighted at the slashed price of the Suvidha packets. But the owner of the store wishes govt had done more to advertise them

given us only 10 free packets,” says the 27-year-old. “So I spread the word when people come.”

In one corner of Arora’s shop, 45-year-old Anju, with a *dupatta* wrapped around her head, has been waiting for some time, throwing anxious glances at the three male customers. Arora, realising what the matter was, seeks her out with a questioning glance, and Anju lifts two fingers and mouths the word “packet”.

While cotton swabs, band-aids and toothbrushes lie on top of the counter, and shampoos and diapers hang from a rod above, Arora takes out the Suvidha packs from inside a cabinet. She then decides to leave some lying around on the counter too. Anju, who lives nearby, says she and her 24-year-old daughter have been using Suvidha for a year. “When I heard the pads had become cheaper, I bought some extra packets for my relatives,” she says.

As she leaves, some of the men around purchase a packet of Suvidha for family members to try.

A pharmacy graduate, Arora opened the store in July 2016 with a partner, but has

been running it alone since 2017. Anyone with a degree in B Pharma, D Pharma or a doctor is qualified to open an Aushadhi store. During peak hours, Arora’s mother Saroj pitches in to help. Divorced and a single mother, Saroj runs the house with the money earned from the store and rent from a part of their house.

Arora says she places the orders for Suvidha with a Gulabi Bagh-based distributor every two-three days, as per demand. Sometimes NGOs working for women place orders in bulk. “Recently, the Betiya Foundation ordered 5,000 packets,” says Arora, nodding to greet her latest customer, Geeta Sodhi.

Sodhi, 48, the owner of a confectionery shop located opposite the store, says in a hushed voice, “Give me 12 packets.” While she does not say the word napkin, Arora, like earlier, knows exactly what Sodhi is talking about. She is used to buyers using all kinds of gestures and sign language to ask for napkins, Arora smiles.

As she heads back to her shop, Sodhi says she has two daughters, and between them they require a large number of sanitary

pads. “Other brands are expensive but Suvidha napkins are cheap and of good quality. They bring a difference to our monthly budget.”

Located in the bustling East Delhi market, Arora’s store has few idle moments, especially towards the evening. Around 8.45 pm, Deepika Shukla, 18, a second-year student of Vivekananda College, drops in. “The pads are popular in my family,” she says.

Shikha Gupta, 47, a regular at the store, has heard about the Suvidha napkins for the first time today. A resident of Mayur Vihar Phase-3, she decides to buy a pack for her daughter. “My husband and I are diabetic. Moreover, he has a stent in his heart. Our medical bills keep skyrocketing. Even small savings are helpful,” she says.

However, not all who come to Arora’s store are happy with the quality. Sarika Verma, 31, says, “The pads come in only one size. They are unsuitable for heavy flow and need to be changed frequently. I only use them at home.”

Amandeep Kaur, 32, has the same concerns. “I keep a stock of both Suvidha and other expensive brands. Instead of reducing cost, the government could have kept the price same and improved the quality of the pads,” she says.

The BPPI’s Singh counters with details on why Suvidha is better than other sanitary pads. “The raw materials used are certified for biodegradability by the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology, Chennai. The price was fixed at Re 1 per pad despite hefty loss and expenditure (to us), right from procurement to distribution. The government subsidises the loss.”

Around 9 pm, as Arora is waiting for Saroj to arrive with dinner, Seema Katiyal comes running for a strip of Vitamin E capsules. Arora slips in a word about Suvidha, but the 45-year-old declines. “I prefer using cloth,” she says. “I have tried napkins but felt extremely uncomfortable.”

Minutes later, Arora’s mother is there with piping hot *roti-sabzi*. Their home is just two minutes away but Arora prefers to eat at the shop as she wraps up work. By the time the mother and daughter head home, it is 10 pm and the market is almost silent.

Eyes on PoK

DIVYAA

AS PAKISTAN occupied Kashmir resurfaces in government talk post-abrogation of Article 370 in J&K, in perhaps the first such display, the National Monuments Authority exhibited in Delhi 28 photographs of heritage structures, including forts, mosques and shrines, in PoK built by Mughal, Dogra and Sikh rulers. The list of “Cultural Heritage Sites in PoK” covered

the districts of Bagh, Bhimber, Haveli, Kotli, Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, Neelum Valley and Sudhanoti. While India lacks a complete list of such sites in PoK, owing to limited access, as per a study conducted by a team of Pakistani archaeologists in 2014, it has about 100 archaeological sites. The Indian list has been culled out from pre-Independence records with the Archaeological Survey of India and various religious bodies, and some books and journals. Among the sites exhibited are:



Red Fort in Muzaffarabad; (left) Kargah Buddha in Gilgit, which was a Buddhist centre from 3rd-11th century. National Monuments Authority

ship for Hindus during ancient times.

RED FORT, MUZAFFARABAD

Known among the locals as Rutta Qila or just qila, this site in Muzaffarabad was built by the Chak rulers, who anticipated threat to the city from the Mughals. The construction began in 1559. However, the Mughals annexed Kashmir in 1587, and the fort lost its importance. Later, its construction was completed in 1646 by Muzaffar Khan of the Bomba Dynasty, the founder of Muzaffarabad. Its architecture shows great craftsmanship, but most of the fort’s relics were stolen and a large portion was destroyed during the 2005 earthquake.

RAMKOT FORT

Located on a hilltop on the banks of the Mangla Dam lake, the fort is accessible through boat from Dina town, or an 80-km road trip from Mirpur. The three sides of the hilltop are surrounded by the Jhelum River, which falls into the huge reservoir of Mangla Dam. It was built in the 16-17th century by a Gakhar named Toglu as recorded by traveller and geologist Frederick Drew in his book. Gakhars were a clan from the region renowned for their skill in building forts and fortified cities.

SHARADA PEETH

The much-revered Hindu temple, located in the Neelum Valley, is an ancient centre of learning dedicated to the Hindu goddess Sharada. There used to be an annual pilgrimage by Kashmiri Pandits to Sharada Peeth, but it was stopped after Independence. In fact, at the inauguration of the exhibition at the NMA, Minister of State in Prime Minister’s Office, Jitendra Singh, said, “Like (in the case of) Kartarpur, ministries concerned will take up the issue with Pakistan to see if this yatra can be resumed.” The temple-university played a key role in the popularisation of the Sharada script in North India, and Kashmir was sometimes called Sharada Desh because of its influence as a centre of learning. Its origins are uncertain — while some historians believe it was built under the Kushan Empire in the first century, others say it was built by Lalitaditya of the Karkota dynasty.

FOUNTAINS AND GARDENS OF KHUIRATTA

Khairatta is situated in Kotli district, just 7 km away from the Line of Control. Khairatta and its surrounding areas are very popular among local tourists, with the shrine of Mai Totti Sahiba a venue for an annual three-day fair. People from Kotli and other adjoining districts attend the festival in spring to watch sports, animal parades and horticultural displays. The area has a number of natural springs and waterfalls. It is believed to have been an important place of wor-

Grandfather to father to 21-year-old: A tale of lives in debt

Among stories of Rs 1 lakh cr owed by Punjab farmers to banks, one of a family in Barnala district which now claims five deaths owing to its mounting dues

DIVYAGOYAL

IT’S THE story of a debt trap reportedly going back nearly half a century. On September 9, according to Bhotna village in Punjab’s Barnala district, the fifth member of a family died due to it, unable to pay dues that stand at Rs 10 lakh.

Her eyes dry and voice barely wavering, a 70-year-old Gurdeep Kaur says, “Since the day I got married, I have only seen male members in my family struggling to feed families. One by one, they all gave up, but I never imagined Lovepreet would go so soon.” The 21-year-old, who had recently taken 5 acres on lease for Rs 57,000 per acre, is believed to have consumed pesticide on September 9.

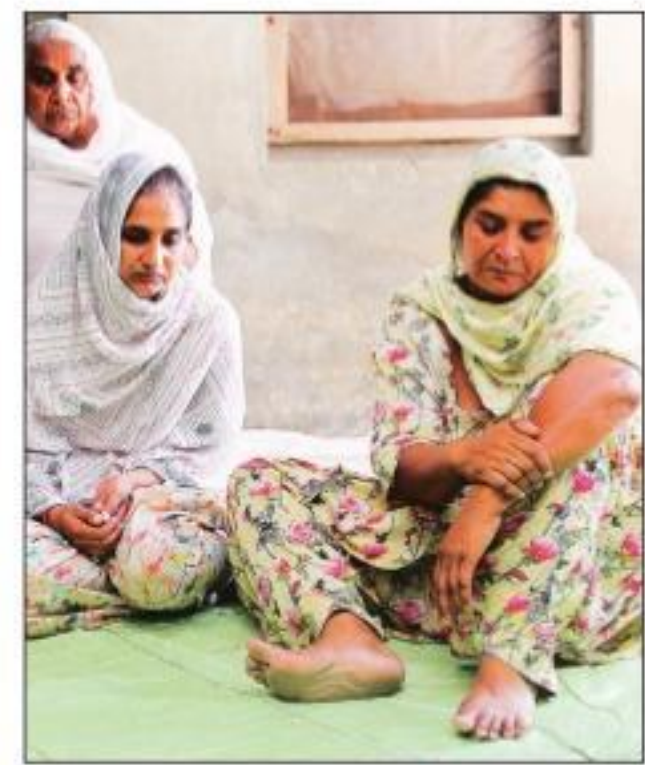
Gurdeep claims the first to kill himself was her father-in-law Joginder Singh, who hanged himself in the 1970s while in his 40s. “Then my husband’s younger brother Bhagwan Singh hanged himself in the 1990s when just 24, followed by my husband Naahar Singh who consumed pesticide in 2000 when he was 45, my son Kulwant Singh, 42, who hanged himself last year, and my grandson Lovepreet now.”

A wall of their dilapidated house, which

is mortgaged, has four words scrawled in paint, ‘*Shouki putt baapu da* (Pampered son of father)’. Lovepreet wrote that when he was 13, sobs mother Harpal Kaur, 50. She, Gurdeep and Lovepreet’s sister Manpreet, 23, are the only members of the family left now. The government estimates that the total bank dues of farmers in Punjab stand close to Rs 1 lakh crore. The Congress government claims to have waived off around Rs 5,000 crore under the Karza Maafi scheme for small and marginal farmers in the past two-and-a-half years, and is scheduled to give Rs 5,000 crore more as relief.

As a grieving Manpreet barely stirs from her cot, the older women say they have forgotten the details of how the cycle of debt started. Left to pay it off after Kulwant’s death in January 2018, they realised they owed Rs 8 lakh. The 42-year-old killed himself soon after hailstorm damaged wheat crop on the 15 acres of land he had leased for Rs 51,000 per acre. While the government announced Rs 3 lakh ex-gratia for Kuldeep’s death, the family says they are yet to get the money, and got just Rs 42,000 for their damaged crop.

Meanwhile, in the 20 months since



Lovepreet’s mother Harpal (right) with his sister Manpreet. Gurmeet Singh

Kuldeep’s death, the debt has mounted to Rs 9-10 lakh, Harpal says. “We got Rs 2 lakh for my father-in-law Naahar Singh’s death much

later but not a penny for my husband’s suicide,” she adds. Harpal has now been promised widow pension of Rs 750 a month.

Saying they owe Rs 3.5 lakh to *arthiyas* (commission agents who act as middlemen between farmers and mandis), Rs 1.5 lakh to a bank, and Rs 3 lakh to a zamindar, she adds, “If we do not pay Rs 22,000 every six months to the zamindar alone, our house will go.” Apart from the house, the 1.25 acres they own is also mortgaged with the zamindar. “All we got under the Karza Maafi scheme was waiver of Rs 36,000 taken from a cooperative society.”

Bhotna sarpanch Budh Singh says the village is well aware of the family’s story. “It is a case of debt passing down generations. Lovepreet, his father and grandfather ended their lives due to it. We do not know the exact reason behind the two earlier suicides but the family claims they were due to debt too.”

Barnala Deputy Commissioner T P S Phoolka says the administration has no record of the three suicides being claimed by the family, in the 1970s, 1990s and 2000, but the two latest had farm debt as apparent reason. “There are many reasons behind a suicide, not just debt.. In the case of Kulwant’s suicide in

2018, his cooperative society loan was waived off, but there is no policy to waive off money loaned from other sources.”

Under Karza Maafi, first loans taken from cooperative societies loans are cleared, then private and other banks. Each small/marginal farmer owning up to 5 acres of land can get a maximum of Rs 2 lakh waiver on crop loans.

Officials say Lovepreet’s case is still being processed, usually a months-long exercise. Harpal recalls that Lovepreet hoped to break free of all this, migrate to Canada. “He had joined IELTS classes for Rs 11,000 a month. But he quit seeing how difficult it was for me to arrange the money. I told him I would borrow more to send him abroad, but he refused. He killed his dreams and started farming.”

Earlier, Harpal had to hold back both Lovepreet and Manpreet from pursuing studies after Class 12. Saying she will curse herself all her life for this, the 50-year-old says, “While Lovepreet had wanted to pursue a course in IT, Manpreet wanted to do graduation.”

The “tension” killed him, Harpal adds. “He would hesitate to ask for even Rs 100 if he wanted to go out with friends... He would pop painkillers, saying his head was throbbing.”

Just three days before his death, Manpreet adds, Lovepreet had given in to one temptation: bought a smartphone for Rs 10,000, from the money the family earned selling milk. “He had a simple phone and felt jealous of his friends,” she says, breaking down.

Looking at photos on the phone now, Manpreet adds that just 10 days before Lovepreet’s death, they had visited the office of the deputy commissioner and Agriculture Department to enquire about the ex-gratia relief in their father’s case. “Always we just got one reply, that they would call us if there was a development. Lovepreet was fed up. He said we were treated like beggars... What are these things that the CM (Chief Minister Amarinder Singh) keeps boasting about — ‘Karza Maafi’, ‘Ghar Ghar Naukri’, ‘Free Smartphones’?”

The 23-year-old also realises that the debt burden is now on her shoulders. “If the government wants to give me a job, it can. I will do anything... There is nothing left in farming, just debt.”

However, from her bitter experience of “50 years”, Gurdeep worries the attention is temporary. “The day the last death ritual is done, no one is going to care.”

inside
TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR



HASTY SHOW

RAJAT SHARMA, the President of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA), was in such haste to get the credit for re-naming the Feroze Shah Kotla Stadium after Arun Jaitley that he did not bother to check the due process of first consulting the Delhi Land and Development Office (L&DO), which owns its ground. The DDCA only leases the land. After first making the announcement, Sharma had to clarify later that the name of the ground remained unchanged, only the stadium was named after the former president of the DDCA, who was responsible for re-modelling and modernising the stadium. Since the L&DO was unlikely to have objected, it was simply a question of following due procedure. Sharma seemed more

interested in an immediate re-naming ceremony to showcase himself, perhaps with an eye on eventually taking over the BCCI, which is presently controlled by Supreme Court appointees. He had not bargained that chief guest Amit Shah, till recently the President of the Gujarat Cricket Association, is a cricket enthusiast and would steal the show. Many in the audience were distressed at the light-hearted and glitzy tone of the ceremony, instead of a sombre and dignified atmosphere befitting Jaitley's recent demise. The function was conducted as if it was a post-match cricket celebration, with the anchor making cracks and calling cricketers and other VIPs to the stage and exchanging banter.

FARE ARRANGEMENT

During a visit to Gandhinagar as a state guest, Finance Commission Chairperson N K Singh, a non-vegetarian, was fed up with the vegetarian fare. Gujarat's Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Nitin Patel was to host a dinner for the chairperson. So Singh's staff approached Patel's office with a list of dishes which their boss

would like included on the dinner menu. Patel's aide showed the note to the minister and suggested that he could make the necessary arrangements by ordering the non-vegetarian fare from an outside caterer. Patel protested that since he was the host it was his prerogative to decide the menu. The officer suggested that it would be undiplomatic to offend the chairperson considering the Finance Commission defines the financial relations between the Central government and the state. But Patel was unhappy since he is a vegetarian and balked at the thought of sitting next to someone tucking into chicken. The bureaucrat helpfully suggested a way out. He would signal to the minister the moment the non-vegetarian fare was served and Patel could move unobtrusively to another table.

MISSING THE ACTION

Conspicuously absent at the Howdy Modi event in Houston was Ram Madhav, the BJP general secretary who started the tradition of organising mammoth rallies for the Prime Minister abroad, attended by enthusiastic NRIs. Madhav was the mas-

termind behind the PM's first mega rally at Madison Square Garden in New York in 2014 and many other mega meets of the diaspora. Originally from the RSS, Madhav seems to have fallen out of favour, perhaps because the BJP high command feels he is too high profile and sometimes speaks out of turn.

OUT OF FAVOUR

The snubs and omissions are too marked not to be obvious. Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has been largely kept out of the Maharashtra Assembly campaign. He was not present when Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis wound up his statewide *yatra* in Nashik in the presence of Narendra Modi. He was also missing from Amit Shah's rally in Mumbai. Recently, a letter from the PMO warned the National Highways Authority, under Gadkari, that rather than focus on more projects and accumulate debts, it should concentrate on asset management. Gadkari's response to a journalist was that the note was merely an advisory. In Modi's second tenure, Gadkari has not been included in any major Cabinet com-

mittee on infrastructure, including the committee on disinvestment of Air India, of which he was a member in Modi-1. It was noticeable that after the implementation of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, introducing steep fines for traffic violations, it was BJP-ruled states, starting with Gujarat, which decided to whittle down the Act, lowering the penalties for traffic offences. The message is clear: You are either totally with the powers that be or out in the cold. The RSS cannot protect you.

SPEED BREAKS

The Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019, radically reconstituting the state, was introduced and passed in Parliament last month within two days, taking everyone by surprise, including those who drafted the Bill, which has far-reaching consequences. On September 12, more than a month after the Bill was passed, the government brought out a three-page corrigendum to correct 52 typos, spellings and grammatical errors in the Act.

Fifth
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH



Twitter @tavleen_singh

Propaganda in place of journalism

AS A proud member of the Indian media for more than 40 years I feel bad admitting that the TV coverage of the Howdy Modi tour has made me more than slightly ashamed. I switched channels endlessly (both Hindi and English) in search of one that was reporting the tour without hyper-ventilating and my search was in vain. In the old days when the only Indian TV channel was Doodardshan, reporters exhibited a certain dignity and decorum when they were being obsequious and slavishly sycophantic. Even this was absent in the reporting on our supposedly independent news channels.

When I tried to analyse why there had been such humiliating hysteria in the reporting of Howdy Modi, I noticed that it was mostly to show that India's leader had been better received than the leader of Pakistan. So eager were reporters to prove this that they even compared the size of the red carpets laid on the tarmac when the two leaders set foot on American soil. With the excitement of cheerleaders they pointed out that Modi had put foot on an impressive red carpet, while Imran Khan descended from his 'borrowed Saudi private jet' onto a red 'doormat'. They exulted over Donald Trump having mocked Pakistani reporters for sounding as if they were part of Imran's team without realising that exactly the same could be said for them.

In Houston, the only show in town was Howdy Modi, so wall-to-wall coverage of this incredible show of support was understandable. But, when Modi got to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) with this army of famous Indian TV reporters following, did they not find anything else to report on? The issues before this session of the UNGA were serious and important to the whole world. There was the possibility of a war between the United States and Iran. There was the trade war between the United States and China. There was climate change and the urgency brought to it this time by the presence of Greta Thunberg. There was Boris Johnson and the possibility that he could lose his job while he was still in New York.

None of these issues seemed of any interest to the Indian journalists who followed Modi to the United States. When they were not reporting his speeches they were interviewing 'experts' about these speeches. Somehow the people they interviewed echoed their own opinion that Modi had received a welcome that no foreign leader before him had ever received in America. And, if they were not praising our Prime Minister, they were busy denigrating the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The obsession with Pakistan seen these days on our supposedly independent news channels is embarrassing. Since the abrogation of Article 370 there is a discussion on Kashmir almost daily on one or other of our news channels. Pakistani commentators are invited to participate almost always and almost always they shout and scream rather than make a coherent case. But, instead of being disinvinced next time, they are brought back time and time again to be harangued and insulted by anchors who are senior enough to know that this is not journalism but hyper-nationalism.

This genre of nationalism usually harms the country it seeks to support more than anyone else and there are definite signs that this has happened already. India and Pakistan stopped being hyphenated a long time ago but because of the manner in which the Indian media has taken to reporting our intractable differences, the hyphen is now back in place. When I tweeted about this last week, Ram Guha reminded me that the media could not be blamed 'exclusively' and that the fault really lay with our current leaders who seem to think it is enmity with Pakistan that defines our nationalism.

It used to be Pakistan that always behaved as if its very existence was defined by its eternal enmity with India. This made Pakistan seem like a small, petty country compared to India, so it is deeply saddening to see us bring India down to the same tawdry level of hostilities and enmity.

When political leaders do this, it is bad enough. But, when famous TV anchors behave like spokespersons of the government of India, it is much, much worse. Almost the first rule of journalism that I was ever taught was that the relationship between the press and government was fundamentally adversarial. This does not mean that we should spend our lives finding fault with everything that the government does, but it does mean that we must avoid behaving like paid propagandists.

Ironically it is Modi who has always had a difficult relationship with the media from his days as chief minister, so when he became prime minister he stopped the practice of taking journalists with him on Air India One. It turns out he did not need to.

Greta Thunberg in my classroom

my life
& WORK

JANANI IYER



Jananiyer72@gmail.com

IT HAS become common to see news with screaming headlines like 'Rising sea-levels could sink Mumbai, Surat, Kolkata and the Andamans, latest UN report warns' or 'Oceans and ice are bearing the brunt of climate change'. While the naysayers and sceptics continue with denials, and their beliefs about climate change conspiracy theories and that the "world is just doing fine", there is little doubt about the impact climate change is wreaking across the planet, countries, cities and individuals, especially adolescents. The recently released report by the United Nations-led Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change talks about the impact of carbon pollution on oceans and ice sheets and the consequential impact on humanity flourishing as a species.

In such a depressing environment, and one which is further compounded when we see countries and politicians

Our job as educators should be to ensure that we build empowered narratives for our children, who can go out and ask the leaders and policy makers, "How dare you?"

Greta has been talking about climate change and environment for some time, beginning with bunking school every Friday to protest outside the Swedish parliament. Despite the controversies around her, I think the speech might just be the tipping point to begin serious conversations, and hopefully action, around saving the planet. Importantly, like Greta, schoolchildren across the globe are talking about the approaching doom because they are worried, afraid and think that they can bring in a positive change and start a youth-driven global movement around climate change. The recent Global Climate Strike on September 23 and September 27 saw children across the world rallying, including a robust participation in several Indian cities, to bring the conversation of climate change to the fore. They are beginning to understand that time is running out and they are the ones who will suffer and hence the rise in interest and intent to do something.

One of the key issues that has not been talked about in the whole climate change discussion is the impact on the mental and emotional well-being of teenagers. I have quite a few kids coming up to me and asking, "What's the point of

exams if the world is going to end and we are going to die?". This is not dramatic but the impact of climate change on individuals. Eco-anxiety is real and ticking. Think about the children in Mumbai who are growing up with the constant buzz that their city is going to sink in 2100 (we have time?), 2050 (oh s***!), 2030 (what's the point?). As the din of the climate change discussion increases, we will see a generation growing up with anxiety and fear that humanity will go extinct due to its own follies.

And I am not even talking about the physical and mental toll on people and teenagers who actually go through the hurricanes, floods or wildfires, few of the outcomes of the rapidly changing climate. Experiencing personal injury and/or being witness to the injury or death of their loved one can have significant psychological harm. If we want the emotional and mental well-being of the current and the coming generation, it is important to constantly have conversations about the subject.

As an educator, I think that schools should be places where these conversations are not only given space but fires of 'undoing the damage' exchanges actively stoked. Given the limited time left to undo

the damage, I often wonder why this important topic is not part of the curriculum. But that is another discussion.

So the big question is: What can educators and schools do? Along with the schools, we have to continue creating awareness about the cataclysmic, mass-extinction event. Schools need to start taking climate-friendly actions and walk the talk. These would include reducing and recycling waste, setting up eco groups, evaluating the school's carbon footprint and getting the parents involved and building a larger community.

I am reminded of one of the dialogues in the Keanu Reeves-starrer *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. As the alien Klaatu hell-bent on destroying Earth, he tells Professor Barnhardt, "The problem is you. You lack the will to change; I cannot change your nature. You treat the world as you treat each other."

Our job as educators should be to ensure that we build empowered narratives for our children, who can then go out and ask the leaders and policy makers, "How dare you?" We need to encourage more Gretas in their quest to redefine the concept of growth with sustainable growth, and in the process save the planet.

In the end, I still like my fairy tales ending with 'And they all lived happily ever after...', and hope that it is the children who will make this happen.

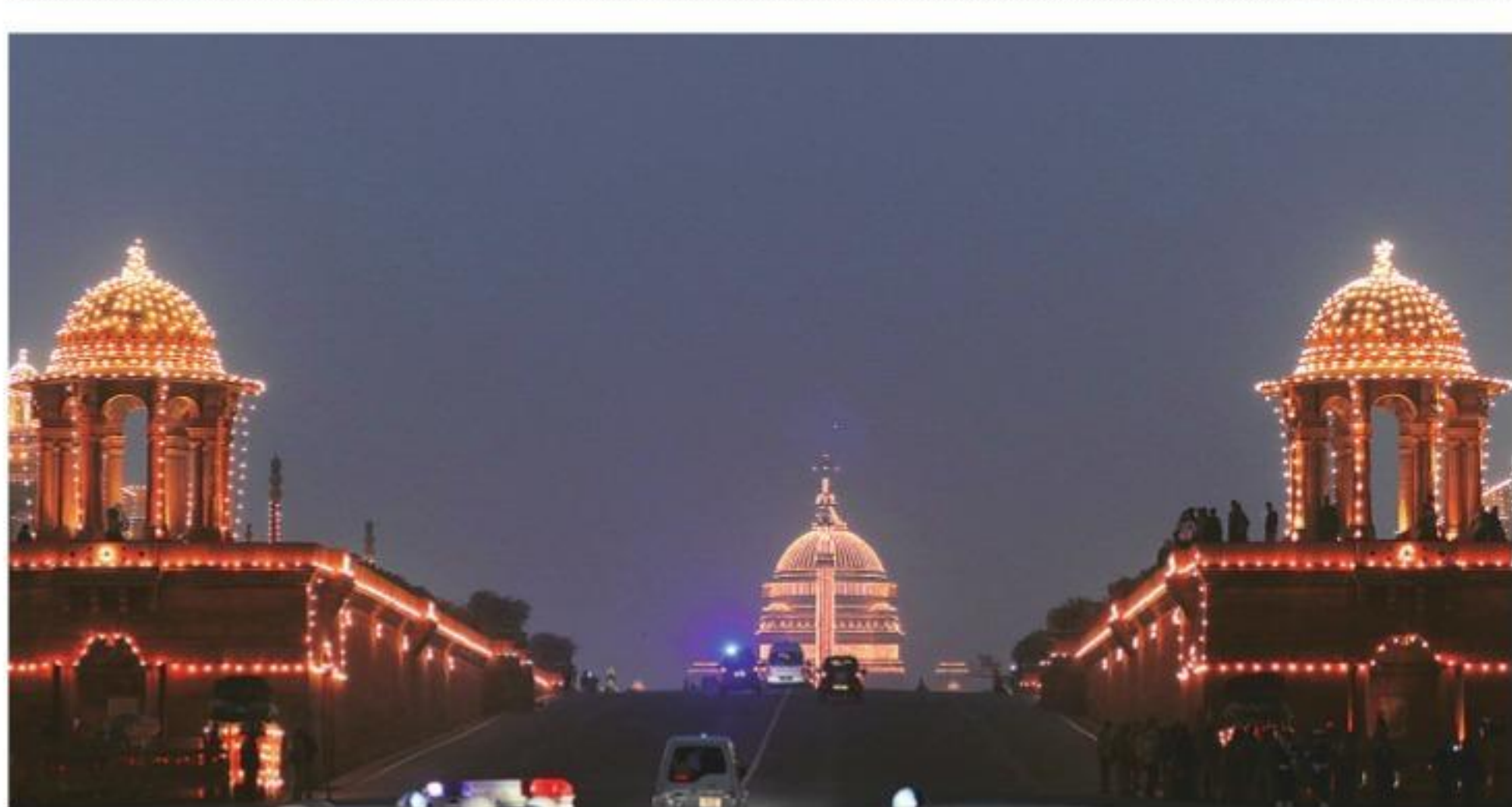
Iyer is a teacher trainer and teacher at The Shri Ram School, Maulsari Avenue, Gurgaon

A fortnightly guest column, starting today, on how news plays out in a space more personal — at the workplace or home

history
HEADLINE

SWAPNA LIDDLE





By the time Lutyens realised that the view of Government House would be affected, it was too late. *Express*

LOOKING UP at the Raisina Hill from Vijay Chowk, one can't help but be reminded of a famous controversy that surrounded the construction of the capitol complex that stands there. From this vantage point, while the North and South blocks of the Secretariat loom large, Rashtrapati Bhavan is almost totally obscured, except for its dome, an effect created by the sharp gradient leading up to top of the hill. It was this slope that wrecked the friendship between two architects, as it favoured Herbert Baker's Secretariat buildings at the cost of Edwin Lutyens's masterpiece of the Government House, which we now know as Rashtrapati Bhavan. Though the story of this quarrel is oft-repeated, one is usually left asking — why exactly did Baker's view prevail over Lutyens's in this matter?

The story needs to be followed from the inception of the New Delhi project. A Town Planning Committee had been set up in 1912 to choose an appropriate site for the new capital, and to design a layout plan for it. It consisted of three members — Lutyens, J A Brodie (an engineer) and George Swinton (Vice-Chairman of the London County Council). Speaking of this in 1933, Lutyens recalled, "In the following year the Government gave as a help Sir Herbert Baker", suggesting that this was almost an afterthought. Was Lutyens being genuinely forgetful about the history of Baker's involvement in New Delhi, or do we have here the shadow of a rivalry that probably had deeper roots?

A close look at the official correspondence of the time reveals that even in the early stages, when the composition of the Town Planning Committee was first being contemplated, Baker's name had been the

first to be suggested as the architect member. This was not surprising, as Baker, having designed the main government buildings at Pretoria, was a much better known architect than Lutyens. Lutyens's name was only accepted later, after some initial misgivings about his lack of experience with important public buildings. He did have some important backers however, including those in professional circles who had faith in his capabilities, and he eventually came on board as the architectural member of the Town Planning Committee.

The Committee, however, had no role to play in the design of the buildings of the new capital, and for these, architects had to be engaged. Lutyens, who had his heart set on the job, had more of a struggle in this. He informally worked on a design for the

Government House, and Lord Hardinge, then Governor General of India, when he was shown this, was favourably impressed. There were however, concerns about his suitability for taking on the task, particularly as the entire project was a large one. It was in these circumstances that Baker's name was suggested again, and Lutyens's appointment was confirmed only by early 1913, on the condition that Baker would be his partner in the project. Thus it was that Lutyens was entrusted with the design of the Government House, the War Memorial Arch (India Gate) and the Public Records Office (National Archives); and Baker with the Secretariats and Council House (Parliament).

Lutyens knew Baker well, and had even worked in collaboration with him, but may have felt in this case that Baker was being thrust upon him. On the other hand, when

it came to the matter of the slope up to the Government House, Lutyens had in fact willingly given his assent to the plan which eventually led to its construction. While the Town Planning Committee had initially placed the secretariat buildings on the ground below Raisina Hill, Baker had persuaded them, including Lutyens and Hardinge, that the Secretariat buildings too should be placed on Raisina Hill. Moreover, in early 1914, when work began on leveling and preparing the hill for the foundations of the buildings, Lutyens signed off on detailed plans showing the position, dimensions and gradient of the road which would pass between the Secretariat blocks to come up to the Government House.

The problem was that Lutyens himself did not appreciate, until almost two years later, when work on the buildings was well under way, the implications of what he had agreed to. It was then that he realised that the view of the Government House would be seriously affected, and objected to the plan. By this time work was so advanced that an adjustment of the gradient would entail a serious expense, to say nothing of the impact it would have on the functionality of the Secretariat blocks — as they would be separated from each other by a sloping road. The government rejected his pleas for an alteration, with Hardinge saying that it was "little short of a scandal" that Lutyens should raise this point at this late date, particularly as the question of views of the Government House should have been obvious to him from the very beginning.

Lutyens rather unfairly blamed Baker for the outcome, and it soured their relationship forever. It is probably testament to Lutyens's more enduring legacy that it is his version of events which has come down to us in most of the histories that have been written.

Liddle is the author of Connaught Place and the Making of New Delhi

Out of
MY MIND

MEGHNAD DESAI



IN MARCH 1975, Indira Gandhi, the then prime minister with a large majority in Parliament, suffered a defeat in the courts. Instead of obeying a mild decision of the court ('refrain from voting in the Lok Sabha'), she imposed Emergency, signed into law by then president Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed. The shocking thing about the Emergency was that it was perfectly constitutional. Obviously, it is not 'We the People' who rule India. It is the elected majority party acting as the Executive.

The crisis in the UK yields an interesting contrast concerning the question 'Who Rules?' Boris Johnson as Prime

People or Parliament sovereign?

Minister chose to prorogue Parliament, truncating the number of days it could meet. Parliament broke for summer holidays on Thursday, July 25, and was to reconvene on September 3. Then Parliament was to break for party conferences and meet again on October 4. It was not unusual to prorogue a Parliament but it requires the assent of the Head of the State. Johnson advised the Queen to prorogue Parliament on Friday, September 13, thus taking the days following October 4 till October 14 away from Parliament. On the 14th, the Queen was to open the new Parliament session. A five-day debate on the Queen's speech would follow and calendar would move rapidly towards 31st, the deadline

when the UK had to exit the European Union — the Deal or no Deal.

His purpose was clear, thwarting Parliament. This was because he has no majority and he knew that Parliament could force him to negotiate a deal or ask for a new exit date to allow time for a Deal. The Opposition wanted a second referendum (which could vote remain, cancelling the original result), or pass a No Confidence motion which would lead to an Opposition-led government which could cancel or delay Brexit by asking the European Union to extend the deadline.

The Opposition was divided but, when Johnson prorogued, it united. Back from holiday, it passed a motion asking the Prime Minister to negotiate a new dead-

line in January 2020. Various MPs and some private citizens went to the courts to challenge the prorogation as illegal.

Judges failed to agree. The High Court in Scotland judged the prorogation illegal but the English High Court said it could not rule on a political matter. The Supreme Court of 11 judges unanimously ruled that prorogation was illegal because it prevented Parliament from doing its work. Parliament was Sovereign. The Court cited a judgment from 1611 which said that the King "hath no prerogative but that which the law of the land allows him". This was even when the King was the sole Executive. Johnson had misled the Queen. Prorogation was illegal and void. Parliament returned on Wednesday,

September 25.

The UK Supreme Court distinguished between the Executive (Absolute King or elected Prime Minister) and Parliament, declaring Parliament to be sovereign. The Unwritten Constitution of the UK relies on old judgments and established conventions. The Indian president is chosen by legislators at the Centre and in states. In effect, the president is chosen by the prime minister. In the UK, the Head of State is not chosen effectively by the ruling party but is a hereditary monarch. This is why Indira Gandhi got away with promulgating Emergency signed by the president.

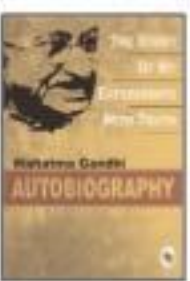
Is Parliament sovereign in India or not? We need to know.

18 Books

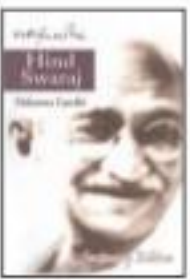
EXPRESS EDITORS RECOMMEND

Gandhiana can fill many shelves. From the slim volumes published by Navajivan Publishing House to the 100 volumes of collected writings and numerous studies and biographies by writers — Romain Rolland, Louis Fischer, Erik H Erikson, Judith Brown, Pyarelal, DG Tendulkar and Ramachandra Guha in English alone. Here's a shortlist for a beginning:

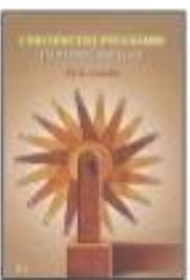
The Story of My Experiments with Truth
MAHATMA GANDHI
Fingerprint! Publishing

 THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY that confirmed Gandhi's status as Mahatma. Written in Gujarati, serialised in Navajivan from 1925 to 1929 and translated into English by Mahadev Desai, it is visceral truth-telling — the “stories” trace the evolution of Gandhi from a middle-class childhood in Gujarat, to his education in England and political experiments in South Africa.


Hind Swaraj
MAHATMA GANDHI
Rajpal Publishing

 GANDHI'S CRITIQUE of Western modernity, written as a dialogue between the Reader and the Editor. It also outlines the path of political revolution and social reconstruction. Published in 1909, this polemic was severely criticised by many, including Gandhi's friends and followers, as regressive. Gandhi's views famously changed with time, but he always stood by all that he said in Hind Swaraj.

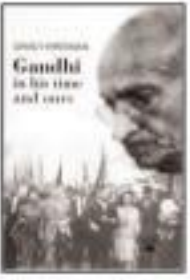
Constructive Programme
MAHATMA GANDHI
Navajivan Trust

 ITS MEANING and Place: This slim volume published in 1941 is Gandhi's manifesto for Independent India — reconstruction through khadi and small industries, agriculture and education (*Nai Talim*), language, the importance of sanitation and so on.

My Life is My Message: Vol. I-IV
NARAYAN DESAI
Orient BlackSwan

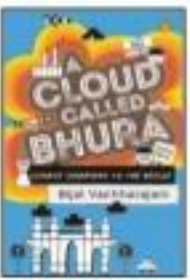
 A FOUR-VOLUME biography by Narayan Desai, son of Gandhi's scribe and soulmate, Mahadev Desai. Originally written in Gujarati, it has been translated beautifully into English by Tridip Suhrud.

Gandhi: In his time and ours
DAVID HARDIMAN
Orient Blackswan Private Limited

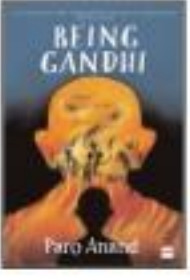
 DAVID HARDIMAN'S work, outlining the shadow cast by Gandhi. The Mahatma has outlived attempts to reduce him to a saint, stamp and currency, and influenced people and ideas across the world, including the environmental and civil resistance movements

LOOKOUT NOTICE

A Cloud Called Bhura: Climate Champions to the Rescue
BIJAL VACHHARAJANI
Publisher: Speaking Tiger

 THAT CLIMATE change fiction will take off in this time of heightened global climate crisis was to be anticipated, but genres such as these are tricky to navigate, if only for the thin line that separates pedantry from concern. Vachharajani's new book does that with aplomb.

Being Gandhi
PARO ANAND
Publisher: HarperCollins

 THE MOST boring teacher in school wants him to do a project on the Mahatma for October 2 and Chandrashekhar cannot fathom why the country cannot find new idols. How he discovers Gandhi and finds the avatar of the Mahatma that is relevant to his times is the story of Paro Anand's latest book.

CHAPTER 1, LINE 1

“Towards the end of November, during a thaw, at nine o'clock one morning, a train on the Warsaw and Petersburg railway was approaching the latter city at full speed.” *The Idiot* (1869), Fyodor Dostoevsky

Beloved child of Mother Bapu

Manu was the Mahatma’s witness more than once: her diaries, finally out, help decode his most controversial experiment

ASHISH MEHTA

MAHATMA GANDHI was large; he contained multitudes. There was much in his opinions and practices that has remained highly contentious. Disciples and most scholars prefer to look at the larger picture — his undoubted greatness, his sacrifices — and explain away what seem to be aberrations. Among all his experiments in truth, however, one remains outright controversial. Even his closest co-pilgrims balked at his test of brahmacharya. Scholars remain baffled.

Coming to terms with this experiment adequately, Bhikhu Parekh wrote, “would require access to the diaries of Manu, one of the women involved in Gandhi’s experiments.” (Others did not write a diary.) The 12 volumes of her writings, including four of the diary, remained in safe hands for decades, before landing in the National Archives of India around 2013.

The secrecy was understandable. When Gandhi had started sleeping naked with young women in 1946-47, amid innuendos and whispers, he had an uncharacteristic instruction for his grand-niece Manu, “And don’t let this diary fall into the hands of any and every person.” He was right: some of the early journalistic reports which appeared in 2013 verged on sensationalism, on the lines of “in bed with Bapu”. For those wishing to engage with the diary in its full context, the National Archives is publishing the diary in two volumes, the first of which is out in English (and soon in Gujarati), edited and translated by Tridip Suhrud.

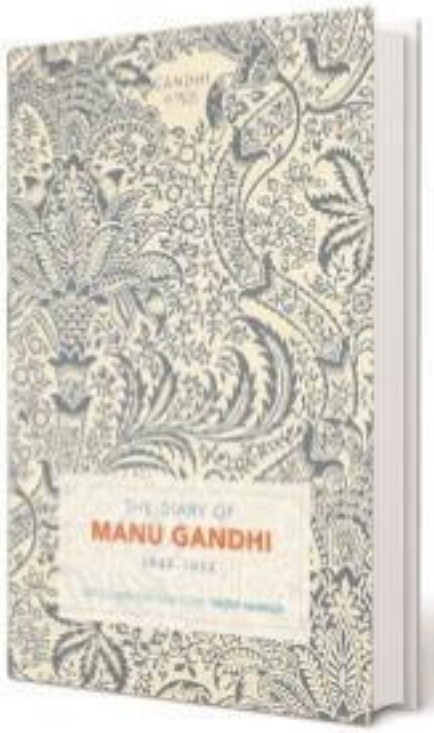
Manu (Mridula Gandhi), granddaughter of the Mahatma’s cousin, entered the Gandhi story at a particularly tragic phase of his life. After the call of Quit India in 1942, Gandhi along with Kasturba, his personal secretary Mahadev Desai and others was detained at the Aga Khan Palace in Poona. Desai died that year with his head in Gandhi’s lap. Kasturba, unwell, would not survive long. Manu, all of 14-15 and badly in need of a maternal figure after the death of her mother, arrived in the palace to look after Kasturba, and to learn a variety of life skills from Gandhi and company.

Following a well-established tradition going back to the Stoics, Gandhi saw diary-writing as a preeminent tool of self-examination, and advised the teenager to start writing one. She began in 1943, and did not continue after Gandhi’s demise. The writing shows a progression from daily accounts in bullet points to complex descriptions. Manu reports on mundane aspects of life, hers and Gandhi’s. From being woken up early for prayers, preparing juices, cooking, giving a massage to Ba, studying the Gita, reading the Ramayana, spinning, learning science, mathematics and English from Pyarelal and Sushila — and getting the previous day’s entry checked by Bapu. Gandhi, amid personal and political crises, found time to correct her orthography, give tips on grammar and make self-writing a better spiritual practice.

The diary covers the critical and glorious final phase of Gandhi’s saga, picking up from where Mahadev Desai left off. Like



Mridula Sarabhai with Mahatma Gandhi Archive photo



THE DIARY OF MANU GANDHI, 1943-44
EDITED AND TRANSLATED BY TRIDIP SUHRUD
Oxford University Press
184 + lix pages
₹ 750

him, Manu wrote the diary not as a report of her day, but of Gandhi’s. Beyond that, it would be unfair to compare a barely literate teenager to ‘Gandhi’s Boswell’. Her diaries will be primarily remembered for the complementing viewpoint she brings to Gandhi’s brahmacharya experiment, which will appear in the second volume.

The experiment, undertaken from December 1946 to February 1947, came amid the “great miracle” when Gandhi was largely successful in ending communal violence in Noakhali. It remains mired in questions: Did Gandhi, in his Seventies, need to test his celibacy? Was it moral to subject young women, for his own objectives, to what could be a highly revulsive experience? Does formal consent have any weight when it is urged by someone of Gandhi’s stature? Also, did Manu need to undergo a test of her own moral purity in the face of the insistent advances of Pyarelal?

To make sense of Manu’s diary and the celibacy experiment, Suhrud is the ideal guide. Apart from numerous translations and compilations of Gandhiana, he has prepared critical editions of *Hind Swaraj* and the *Autobiography* (Faisal Devji called him “the true successor of Desai and Pyarelal.”). In his introduction he analyses the experiment in terms of Gandhi’s lifelong “striving and pining to achieve ... self-realization,

to see God face to face, to attain moksha”.

Via various traditions and innovations, Gandhi forged a unique path to politically responsible salvation: Ekadash Vrata, the 11 vows or observances that he followed from his mid-thirties. They included truth, non-violence, brahmacharya, non-stealing, non-possession, fearlessness as well as adoption of swadeshi, equal respect for all religions and removal of untouchability. Just as non-violence was not merely absence of violence but, in active form, became love; brahmacharya was not mere celibacy but literally “dwelling in the brahma”.

Further, Gandhi believed the 11 vows had the power to influence the world. Conversely, an orgy of communal violence was a result of the practitioner’s failing. Whether this was spiritual arrogance or guilt-prone humility is open to interpretation, but witnessing inhuman violence, Gandhi needed to check within for remnants of lust and remove them. To achieve this, tempting oneself to the very edge would not be the obvious answer for anybody other than Gandhi. But he believed that if he could perfect his brahmacharya, his ahimsa would engulf the mobs, douse the fires and peace would shine out.

Tongues started wagging, a volunteer left. Even his longtime sparring partners from the Ashram thought this was adhama and immoral, and came down to Noakhali

to talk him out of it. Finally, Thakkar Bapa persuaded Manu to quit, though Gandhi remained convinced of his views (Abhay or fearlessness remains one of his less appreciated virtues.). He wrote to Manu, “I have successfully practised the 11 vows undertaken by me. This is the culmination of my striving for the last 60 years. ... In this yajna, I got a glimpse of the ideal of truth and purity for which I have been striving.”

Manu, in all her innocence, was probably the ideal partner and witness in the sacrificial ceremony, as she could see in Gandhi what he aspired for, going beyond not just lust but the very gender binaries. Manu alone saw Gandhi as mother, and exclaimed at the joy of being “that beloved child of Mother Bapu!”

Thus, it was Manu who would bear witness, not just to the culmination of Gandhi’s striving, but his final sacrifice. Gandhi wanted her “to bear witness to his death so that she could bear testimony to his striving”. He told her, “The success of my attempt depends solely on how I meet death ... But if it occurs to me to utter the name Rama with my last breath it should be taken as proof of the success of my attempt.” She was by his side when he breathed his last, but not before calling out, “He Ram!”

The writer is a Delhi-based journalist and scholar

Locating 011

Sharp vignettes of Delhi’s past, but this smooth translation lacks a woman author’s perspective

SUKRITA BARUAH

HOW DOES a reader make sense of a text which they are simply unable to place? Reading Aleph Book Company’s 2019 edition of *A Death in Delhi* can be a slippery experience because of the failure or unwillingness of the publishers to locate the text clearly in time. Or perhaps, it was a thought-out decision.

The blurb, offering a glimpse of these short stories translated into English from Hindi, tells us, “The 15 stories in this volume, by some of the most prominent writers in the field, provide a unique picture of the country today.” A little further into the book, in the Introduction, the reader learns that the stories curated for the collection date to the 1950s and 1960s. The period in question is introduced as one in which certain transitions can be read in the values, concerns and narratives of writers. But nowhere in the book does the reader learn that Gordon Roadarmel — who compiled and translated the stories, as well as penned the introduction — died almost 50 years ago, in 1972.

The first edition of this collection was published by the University of California Press the year Roadarmel died. The brief in-

troduction by him makes the target readership quite clear — it is largely for a Western audience, emphasising that Hindi writers of the concerned period were very much in touch with the universal themes of alienation and inner torment.

Almost all 15 stories in the collection have an urban setting and explore the inner lives of an array of beleaguered urban characters. Men grappling with complicated pasts, men living unmoored disengaged lives in the city, men’s fleeting and bewildering encounters with each other, men who have lost their dreams.

In the eponymous short story written by Kamleshwar, the narrator wrestles with his reluctance — Lethargy? Lack of a deep enough human relationship? Social discomfort? — to join the funeral procession of an influential benefactor in an affluent Delhi neighbourhood. The narrator’s dread of dealing

out social niceties even at a time of death, the everyday chatter of those joining the procession and funeral — even as the death itself is kept at a good arm’s length in the story — softly sketches the insulated and nuclear concerns and lives of city-dwellers. In ‘Big Brother’ by Shekhar Joshi, a young working boy’s delight at forming a connection with a guardian figure from his home-re-



A DEATH IN DELHI: MODERN HINDI SHORT STORIES
GORDON C. ROADARME
Aleph Book Company
264 pages ₹ 390



The stories within a city, Praveen Khanna

The writers featured in the collection include celebrated names such as Giriraj Kishore, Ram Kumar and Gyanranjan. But the absence of even a single woman writer is stark in the experience of reading the text

gion when impatience wrought by class difference overwrites shared memories of their region.

The writers featured in the collection include celebrated names such as Giriraj

Kishore, Ram Kumar, Nirmal Verma, and Gyanranjan. But the absence of even a single woman writer is stark in the experience of reading the text. The deeply personal nature of these stories means that their narratives revolve around the subjectivity of the character with a voice, and most of these stories have been told in the first person. Among those told in the second and third person as well, every single story grants subjectivity entirely to a male character. Even a story like ‘Miss Pall’, on the battles of a single woman who tries to escape the torments of city life by moving away to a solitary life in the hills, is told through the narrative of her male former colleague from the city. Miss Pall herself never speaks to the reader. In 2019, it is

difficult to read a collection supposedly representative of modern Indian literature (in Hindi) in which women have no voice.

This is why this unlabouredly and smoothly translated collection of stories could have benefitted with some effort by the publisher to locate the text in time. Of course, the introduction gives us some context to the collection of stories and the motivations of the translator and compiler. What the 2019 collection needs is some context to the introduction itself — the text as a whole, and not just the stories — and to the choice to reproduce and republish the collection for the contemporary reader. Otherwise, it remains an anachronistic collection.



SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

The Indian EXPRESS
(ALL EDITIONS)

An initiative by RED* ADVERTORIAL
Read. Engage. Deliver.

HOUSING LOANS



Home Loan Tax Benefits

When you buy a house on a home loan, it comes with multiple tax benefits too that significantly reduce your tax outgo. Read on...



A SHOT IN THE ARM

UNION FINANCE MINISTER NIRMALA SITHARAMAN'S RECENT DECISION TO EXTEND AN ADDITIONAL DEDUCTION TO HOME-BUYERS IN THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CATEGORY HAS BROUGHT TIMELY SUCCOUR TO THOSE DREAMING OF BUYING THEIR OWN HOUSE

THAT INDIA'S REAL ESTATE MARKET has been faltering and floundering for quite some time now, as the country's economy remains under duress, is a well-documented fact. And therefore, one of the most noteworthy announcements in Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's budget speech earlier this year was the proposal to raise the tax deduction limit on home loans.

In an unprecedented move, Sitharaman extended an additional deduction to home-buyers in the affordable housing category, providing great relief to India's middle and lower-middle class. The Minister's decision to increase the tax deduction limit to ₹3.5 lakh from the existing ₹2 lakh on a home loan worth a maximum ₹45 lakh (borrowed up to March 31, 2020), is being viewed by experts as a move to give affordable housing under the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Housing for All' (Urban) scheme a firm push.

What this means is that the

deduction will be over and above the present deduction of ₹2 lakh allowed on a home loan interest payment. If one avails a home loan for purchase or construction of a house, the capital repayment and interest paid on the loan qualifies for deduction under separate income tax sections.

While principal repayment qualifies for deduction under section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961, and has an overall limit of ₹1.5 lakh a year, the interest payment on home loan qualifies for deduction under section 24(b) of the Act, with an overall limit of ₹2 lakh a year.

A significant point to note here is that this scheme is limited to loans sanctioned in the ongoing financial year, ending on March 31, 2020. Moreover, if the purchase cost of the home being bought is over ₹45 lakh, the scheme will not cover loans. Accordingly, while the new additional deduction will benefit home buyers mostly in smaller towns or Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, its benefit in Tier 1 and metro cities will be negligible due to higher real estate prices.

DEDUCTION FOR INTEREST PAID ON HOUSING LOAN

A home loan must be taken for the purchase/construction of a house, and construction of the house must be completed within 5 years from the end of financial year in which loan was taken. If you are paying EMI for the housing loan, it has two components – interest payment and principal repayment. The interest portion of the EMI paid for the year can be claimed as a deduction from your total income up to a maximum of ₹2 lakh under Section 24. From AY2018-19 onwards, the maximum deduction for interest paid on Self Occupied house property is ₹2 Lakh. For let-out property, there is no upper limit for claiming interest. However, the overall loss one can claim under the head of House Property is restricted to ₹2 lakh only. This deduction can be claimed from the year in which construction of the house is completed.

DEDUCTION IN RESPECT OF INTEREST PAID DURING PRE-CONSTRUCTION PERIOD

Say, you bought an under-construction property and have not moved in yet. But you are paying the EMIs. In this case, your eligibility to claim interest on the home loan as a deduction begins only upon completion of construction; or immediately if you buy a fully constructed property. So does this mean you would not enjoy any tax benefits on the interest paid during the period falling between the borrowing of loan and completion of construction? No. Let's understand why. The income tax law provides for the claim of such interest also, called the pre-construction interest, as a deduction in five equal instalments starting from the year in which the property is acquired or construction



is completed, over and above the deduction you are otherwise eligible to claim from your house property income. However, the maximum eligibility remains capped at ₹2 lakh.

DEDUCTION ON PRINCIPAL REPAYMENT

The principal portion of the EMI paid for the year is allowed as deduction under Section 80C. The maximum amount that can be claimed is up to ₹1.5 lakh. But to claim this deduction, the house property should not be sold within 5 years of possession. Otherwise, the deduction claimed earlier will be added back to your income in the year of sale.

DEDUCTION FOR STAMP DUTY AND REGISTRATION CHARGES

Besides claiming the deduction for principal repayment, a deduction for stamp duty and registration charges can also be claimed u/s 80C but within the overall limit of ₹1.5 lakhs. However, it can be claimed only in the year in which these expenses are incurred.

ADDITIONAL DEDUCTION UNDER SECTION 80EE

Additional deduction under Section 80EE is allowed to the home buyers for a maximum of up to ₹50,000. To claim this deduction, the amount of loan taken should be ₹35 lakhs or less and the value of the property should not exceed ₹50 lakhs. The loan must

have been sanctioned between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2017. And on the date of sanction of loan, individual does not own any other house. Section 80EE has been reintroduced effective from FY2016-17. Earlier the deduction allowed under Sec 80EE was available for 2 years FY2013-14 and FY2014-15 only.

ADDITIONAL DEDUCTION UNDER SECTION 80EEA

Budget 2019 has introduced additional deduction under Section 80EEA for home buyers for a maximum of up to ₹1.5 lakhs. To claim this deduction, the stamp value of the property should not exceed ₹45 lakhs. The loan must have been sanctioned between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020. And on the date of sanction of loan, individual does not own any other house. The individual should not also be eligible to claim deduction under section 80EE.

DEDUCTION FOR JOINT HOME LOAN

If the loan is taken jointly, then each of the loan holders can claim a deduction for home loan interest of up to ₹2 lakhs each and principal repayment u/s 80C of up to ₹1.5 lakhs each in their individual tax returns. To claim this deduction, they should also be co-owners of the property taken on loan. So, loan taken jointly with your family can help you claim a larger tax benefit.

READ THE FINE PRINT

- The deduction can be availed only by individuals. Cooperative societies, undivided Hindu families, companies or firms will not be eligible for the deduction.
- Only a first-time homeowner is eligible for the deduction. Individuals who already own a home have been kept out of the ambit of the enhanced limit.
- There is an upper cap on the price of the house – ₹45 lakh. This has been done to promote affordable housing and limit the benefits to the middle and lower-middle class. Moreover, the loan has to be taken from a bank or a government-recognised housing finance company.
- The carpet area of the property should not be more than 60 sq.m. (645 sq.ft.), (up from 30 sq.m.), in cities like Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad. For other cities or towns, the carpet area is a maximum of 90 sq.m. (968 sq.ft.).
- The tax deduction can be availed of under the newly introduced Section 80EEA from FY 2019-20 (AY2020-21).
- Both resident Indians and non-resident Indians (NRIs) can claim the deduction.

₹

6,150

Business Mix Crossed

Thanks to all Members, Customers & Well Wishers

APNA SAHAKARI BANK LTD.

Corporate Office: Apna Bank Bhavan, Dr. S.S.Rao Road, Parel, Mumbai: 400 012
Phone No: 2410 4861/62 Fax No.: 2410 4680
E-mail: corporateoffice@apnabank.co.in
Website: www.apnabank.co.in

अपना बँक
अपना सहकारी बँक लि.
APNA SAHAKARI BANK LTD.

आपनि भागदुलं... आपनि बँक®
Multi State Scheduled Bank

Sapne Honge Saakaar

Processing Charges Waived (Limited Period Offer)

Union Home

Sanction in 5 days
No hidden charges
Variable repayment options
Smart save - saving of interest
Higher quantum, longer repayment

Union Miles

Sanction in 2 days
Repayment upto 7 years
Competitive rate of interest
Reduced processing charges

Online loan application facility | Interest on Daily reducing balance

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया **Union Bank of India**
अच्छे लोग, अच्छा बैंक Good people to bank with
भारतीय बैंकिंग कोड एवं मानक बोर्ड के सदस्य Member of Banking Codes & Standards Board of India

Helpline Nos.: 1800 22 2244 / 1800 208 2244 (Toll free no.) | 080 6181 7110 (Chargeable) +91 80 6181 7110 (For NRIs)
www.unionbankofindia.co.in | UnionBankOfIndia UnionBankTweets unionbankinsta UnionBankofIndiaUtube unionbankofindia

* RED (READ. ENGAGE. DELIVER.) IS THE MARKETING SOLUTIONS TEAM OF THE INDIAN EXPRESS GROUP



NORTH

3 cops held for looting 2 kg gold from Rajasthan man

Ludhiana: Punjab Police on Saturday arrested an SHO and two of his gunmen after they allegedly took away valuables from a Rajasthan resident who had travelled from Dubai to Amritsar airport and was on his way home to Nagaur on September 26. As per the complaint by Mohammad Imran, he and his friends were stopped by Maur Mandi SHO

KC Parashar, who directed his gunmen to search the vehicle in which they were travelling. They were detained for four hours, and several articles that Imran had bought from Dubai were taken away, including 2 kg gold. Imran then lodged a complaint with Bathinda SSP Nanak Singh, following which an FIR was registered against the three policemen. **ENS**



Students celebrate the 112th birth anniversary of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh in Hyderabad. *PTI*

EAST

TMC leader stabbed to death in Bengal, two arrested

Kolkata: A 60-year-old TMC leader was stabbed to death at Gangarampur in West Bengal's South Dinajpur district on Friday night. The deceased was identified as Santosh Das, a panchayat member of block No. 5 in Gangarampur. Two people have been arrested. While the TMC has accused the BJP of killing Das, the latter denied

the allegations. According to police, Das was on his way home when he was allegedly attacked by a group of people with sharp weapons at Malpighi. "He was declared brought dead at the hospital. He was murdered while he was returning home on foot at 10 pm. Two persons have been arrested. Investigation is on," said a police officer. **ENS**

WEST

Maharashtra BJP MLA held for 'harassing' woman cop

Nagpur: Bhandara police on Saturday arrested Tumsar BJP MLA Charan Waghmare and the party's Tumsar unit president Anil Jibhkat for allegedly harassing a woman sub-inspector at an event earlier this month. "Waghmare and jibhkat were booked under several sections of the IPC for outraging modesty and ob-

structing government officials while performing duty," Tumsar Inspector Manoj Sidam said. According to police, the incident happened during an event to distribute safety kits to labourers at Tumsar on September 16. A court remanded Waghmare and Jibhkat in judicial custody till October 10. **ENS**

SOUTH

Top woman Maoist leader injured in encounter, held

Amaravati: A top woman leader of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) was apprehended on Saturday, even as the five Maoists killed in a shootout with police in Visakhapatnam district on the Andhra-Odisha border (AOB) on September 22 and 23 have been identified as those from neighbouring Chhattisgarh. In the subse-

quent combing operations that were continuing, a top woman Maoist was apprehended by police after she sustained two bullet injuries. Andhra DGP D Gautam Sawang said Sake Kalavati, alias Bhavani, who was an area committee member of the CPI (Maoist), sustained two bullet injuries in the exchange of fire. **PTI**

Reddy group opposes BSY govt proposal to divide Ballari

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 28

A PROPOSAL by the Karnataka government to divide the iron ore-rich but impoverished Ballari district into two districts has been perceived by the ruling BJP's once-formidable Reddy brothers' group of Ballari as a threat to their political fortunes in the region.

A member of the group, G Somashekhar Reddy, BJP MLA from Ballari city, issued a veiled threat to the B S Yediyurappa-led government on Saturday against dividing the district into Vijayanagar and Ballari, as sought by a section of Ballari politicians. "What would happen to the government if four BJP MLAs were to resign over this? The chief minister must give a hearing to all MLAs of Ballari before taking a decision on dividing the district," Somashekhar said on Saturday. Somashekhar has claimed that he and three other BJP MLAs from greater Ballari region — his brother G Karunakar Reddy, M S Somalingappa and N Y Gopalakrishna — are against the decision to divide the 11 taluks of Ballari to create a new Vijayanagar district.

One of the MLAs from the Reddy brothers' group, B Sreeramulu, who is a minister in the BJP government and the fulcrum of the support base enjoyed by the party among the sizable Scheduled Tribe Valmiki Nayak community in the region, has hinted at unhappiness over dividing Ballari and said he would raise the issue with the government.



B S Yediyurappa

On September 18, Yediyurappa fast-tracked the proposal to divide Ballari after the disqualified Congress MLA from Vijayanagar constituency, Anand Singh — now associated with the BJP — met the CM with a delegation of leaders from Ballari seeking the division for better administration of the sprawling region. Yediyurappa directed the chief secretary to place a report before the next cabinet meeting.

In his communication to the chief secretary to explore the division of Ballari, Yediyurappa stated that it is necessary to create the new district with six of 11 taluks in Ballari district, with Hospet as headquarters, since some areas of the district are 200 km from Ballari City, the current district headquarters, causing inconvenience to people.

The move, however, is also widely seen as an attempt to wrest control of the resource-rich region from the Reddy brothers' group by Yediyurappa and MLAs like Singh, who have interest in iron ore mining. "Control of Ballari region — especially the role of the district in-charge minister — has been a source of dispute since the



Veiled threat for govt with slim majority

THE CURRENT BJP government enjoys a fragile majority in the Assembly, with 106 seats as opposed to the opposition's 101 seats. The threat of resignations by the Reddy group in the BJP is seen as a veiled threat to the BJP government headed by Yediyurappa.

iron ore mining boom of the last decade. By dividing the region, an MLA like Singh is aspiring to control the region," a political observer said.

While illegal mining in Ballari district — which has seen the incarceration of G Janardhan Reddy, one of the Reddy brothers of the BJP, for illegal mining by the CBI — has been curbed following Supreme Court intervention in 2012, local leaders are now keen to be in a position to control usage of nearly Rs 15,000 crore funds for ecological restoration. A Rs 15,000-crore project for

restoration of the mining-affected region is a central aspect of the political tussle.

Congress leader D K Shivakumar, who was Ballari district in-charge minister in the previous Congress-JDS government, was in 2018 engaged in a dispute with another Congress leader Ramesh Jharkiholi — who has now switched to the BJP — for control of Ballari.

"The move to divide Ballari is also an attempt to break the political hold of Sreeramulu and the Reddys. Sreeramulu was tipped to be deputy CM if the BJP had won majority of Assembly segments in Ballari in 2018. But the BJP won only two of nine seats," a Ballari official said.

Sreeramulu has stated that he would prefer Ballari district to be united. "Some are demanding creation of a separate district and others want it to remain united. I will speak to the CM and raise it in the cabinet," the health minister said. "Whoever has met the CM seeking a separate district is selfish. We will not accept it. If the district is bifurcated it will be a Tughlak decision," Somashekhar said.

The Reddy brothers' group in the BJP and Yediyurappa were engaged in a bitter dispute for control of Ballari during Yediyurappa's previous major tenure as CM between 2008-2011.

Yediyurappa was arrested in a corruption case related to illegal mining but later acquitted by a trial court in Bengaluru. G Janardhan Reddy, who was accused of running an illegal mining mafia, is still under trial in a CBI case.

Mukul Roy appears before CBI, claims conspiracy by Mamata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 28

BJP LEADER Mukul Roy appeared before the CBI on Saturday in connection with the Narada sting operation case. He was questioned for nearly two-and-a-half hours.

Roy was initially asked to appear before the CBI on Friday. However, he had sought time from the agency saying he was "preoccupied". The CBI then asked him to appear on Saturday.

The CBI made the first arrest in the Narada case with the arrest of senior IPS officer S M H Mirza on Thursday.

Sources said Mirza allegedly took Roy's name during his interrogation. He claimed that Roy had introduced him to Mathew Samuel, of the Narada News portal, who had conducted the sting operation. Mirza was the then Burdwan Superintendent of Police. Following this, the CBI decided to examine both Roy and Mirza face-to-face.

After the interrogation, Roy blamed Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for conspiring against him. "Did anyone see me taking money. It's the conspiracy of the CM. she is asking everyone who is being arrested on corruption charges to take my name," he said.

Heavy rain claims 48 lives in 4 states, UP worst hit

ENS & PTI
NEW DELHI, PATNA, LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 28

AS MANY as 48 people died in rain-related incidents, the majority of them in Uttar Pradesh, while incessant rainfall in Bihar, where an alert has been sounded, left the streets of Patna and other areas waterlogged and residences of at least two ministers marooned.

As many as 35 people lost their lives in Uttar Pradesh since Friday, the state government said. While 25 of them died on Saturday, 10 lost their lives on Friday. The meteorological department said heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over eastern UP on Sunday.

In Uttarakhand, six pilgrims from Punjab, who were on their way to the Himalayan shrine of Hemkund Sahib, were killed when a huge rock fell on their vehicle in Tehri district following a landslide triggered by heavy rains, officials said.

Also, three deaths each were reported from Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, while one person died in Jammu and Kashmir.

In Bihar, heavy rains in several parts of the state since Friday have thrown normal life out of gear affecting rail traffic, healthcare facilities and schools. The residences of Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi,



Patients being shifted from the NMCH in Patna after rainwater entered several wards. *PTI*

Road Construction Minister Nand Kishore Yadav and BJP MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy resembled marooned islands.

The weather department has forecast heavy rainfall for the city till September 30. The Patna district administration has ordered closure of all schools till Tuesday.

Nalanda Medical College Hospital premises, the second largest healthcare facility in Patna, was waterlogged as also that of the Gardanibagh hospital.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar reviewed the situation in a video conference meeting with officials who informed him that the state received an average rainfall of 50 mm since Friday with districts like Vaishali and Nawada recording more than 200 mm.

Patna District Magistrate Kumar Ravi said a contingent of NDRF and SDRF personnel was pressed into service to rescue residents from waterlogged areas.

East Central Railway officials said rail traffic was suspended on the Darbhanga-Samastipur section as tracks at some places got inundated due to heavy rain, leaving at least three trains stranded.

Meanwhile, River Krishna is in spate again following heavy rain in the upper catchment areas in Maharashtra and Karnataka. Consequently, the crest gates of major dams that were already full to the brim in Andhra Pradesh had to be opened to let out floodwater into the Bay of Bengal.

Ex-Culture Secy to oversee museum upgrade

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

WITH A view to streamline the upgradation of existing museums and create several new ones, the government has appointed former culture secretary Raghvendra Singh as the CEO of the Development of Museums and Cultural Spaces.

Singh's post has been created by upgrading the existing post of Director-General, National Museum. This new post has been created under the Ministry of Culture, and Singh, who took charge on September 12, has been given a term of three years.

The CEO will directly report to the Union minister, sources said. They said that the projects to be prioritised under the CEO are the upcoming Prime Minister's Museum at Teen Murti Complex and three new muse-

ums inside the Red Fort complex. The Ministry of Culture has an ambitious plan to revamp museums of the country, which includes the modernisation of 11 museums, setting up 100 new museums across the country, and the digitisation of 4.23 lakh artefacts.

All major institutions under the Ministry of Culture, such as the National Gallery of Modern Art (Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai), National Museum, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (Delhi), Nehru Memorial

Museum and Library (Delhi), Indian Museum Kolkata, and the Victoria Museum (Kolkata) will now fall under the CEO's purview, and he will exercise the powers of a secretary in the ministry.

However, the Archaeological Survey of India and performing arts institutions such as the National School of Drama and the Sangeet Natak Akademi will continue to fall under Culture Secretary Arun Goel's purview.

This is the first time that the ministry will have two secretary-level officers, but officials said the new post has been created temporarily to fast-track some long overdue projects envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* after taking charge, Singh said, "I have envisioned a project to create a cultural hub in Lutyen's Delhi. All the organisations under the Ministry of

Culture do good shows, but continue to function like islands. My aim is to make them interconnected and get them to collaborate." For this, Singh said, he aims to create a common cultural calendar in a few months' time.

But first, Singh said that he aims to infuse some life into the National Museum, where his office is located. "We are going to do away with the tedious security set-up at the entrance and make the place more welcoming. Various cultural programmes and workshops will be held in the main rotunda to make it come alive. Two-three cafes will also be set up," he said, adding that all the galleries will be turned around — be it the Harappa gallery or the coins or paintings galleries, missing links will be added, and stories behind the objects will be digitally displayed on the lines of international museums.

Simultaneous polls a noble idea: EC Chandra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 28

"ONE NATION, one election" is a "noble idea" that will help future governments focus on development, Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra said on Saturday.

"In 1952, 1957, 1962, and 1967, there were simultaneous elections (to Lok Sabha and state Assemblies) in this country," Chandra said at an interactive session at the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI).

"But after 1967 what happened? Some Assemblies were dissolved prematurely. Sometimes Parliament got dissolved prematurely, and Parliament was extended by a year during the Emergency. So timetables underwent a change," Chandra said.

"Is it good to have elections after every few months or few years, or we should have simultaneous elections?" he asked. "In this year, if you see four elections of state Assemblies have already been conducted. We have two Assembly elections which are being held next month, Haryana and Maharashtra. Then elections in Jharkhand and Delhi are coming up. So for the entire year, we are having a timetable of conducting elections."

Seventeen Lok Sabha elections and 400 Assembly elections have taken place since Independence, Chandra said. For the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, 1.2 crore personnel, including security personnel, were deployed, and a massive Rs 3,450 crore worth of illegal liquor, cash and drugs were seized; this was three times the value of the seizures in the previous election. "Now you see, expenditure is being incurred, police personnel are being deployed, the government machinery is being moved, places are hired, especially schools and colleges, for the conduct of elections," he said.

"Ideally what should happen? One nation and one election. But how will it happen? What are the challenges? It was given to the Standing Parliamentary Committee of Parliament in 2015 which recommended simultaneous elections. It was referred to

Modi an angel for people of J&K, says Pokhriyal

LALMANI VERMA
DEHRADUN, SEPTEMBER 28

UNION HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' on Saturday called Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "farishta" (angel) for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and said that Pakistan was writhing and mewling after India's decision on Article 370.

"You are well aware in which circumstances Jammu and Kashmir had become a puppet in the hands of two families. Today people there feel that Narendra Modi has come as angel for them. Now their children will get skills, education and not stones in their hands... The youths who were supposed to



Sushil Chandra

the Law Commission which submitted a report in 2018 favouring simultaneous elections. So everyone has agreed to simultaneous elections which will save time, which will give more time to the government to think about development, without any populist measures... The Election commission has also given its OK," he said. For simultaneous elections across the country, the Election Commission will have to deploy more machines and personnel, "but we are geared up for that," Chandra said. "We had simultaneous elections till 1967 and so this can be done. The constitution has always thought of simultaneous elections. This is a noble idea."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi first pushed for simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and state Assemblies at a party forum on March 19, 2016, and has since underlined the idea repeatedly. He has justified the proposal on several grounds, including a substantive cut in expenditure incurred for conducting separate elections every year.

While Modi's views have been echoed almost universally in the party, the late Arun Jaitley had cautioned in April 2016 that the plan was "fraught with many pit-falls". Jaitley had advised that "we should tread with abundant caution in the matter", according to the minutes of a meeting of a Committee of Ministers (CoM) obtained by *The Indian Express* under the Right to Information Act. However, Jaitley subsequently took a different line and echoed Modi.

Opposition parties like the Congress, Trinamool Congress, CPI, AIMIM and NCP have expressed reservations about simultaneous elections, and questioned the feasibility of the exercise.

UNNAO RAPE CASE
Landlords in Delhi not renting house to victim, relatives: counsel to court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE UNNAO rape victim's counsel has submitted to a Delhi court that the landlords he approached in Delhi did not want to rent out their premises to the victim and her family members.

A Delhi court had asked the counsel to look for suitable accommodation in the city after the victim's mother and other family members told Special Judge Dharmesh Sharma that they wanted to relocate to Delhi.

The lawyer submitted in court that the few landlords that he approached refused to let out their premises to the victim's family

citing the background of the case.

The court has now handed over the task of finding accommodation to two DCW counsellors. "After much deliberations, the Chairperson, Delhi Commission for Women is requested to nominate a team of two counsellors, who may assess the residential requirements of the complainant and her family members and assist them in locating and providing suitable accommodation in Delhi....," the court said. The court also directed the DCW chairperson to oversee rehabilitation measures of the children of the deceased, ensure their education in Delhi as well as skill development to the liking of the children.



ADVERTORIAL | An initiative by **RED**
Read. Engage. Deliver.

WORLD HEART DAY

Healthy Heart, Healthy You!!!

CONCEPT MEDICAL: *Giving your heart extra protection*

**Healthy Heart, Healthy You!!!
Do you know who the most important person in your life is???**

A majority of your answers will revolve around your loved ones like parents, wife, kids, friends, etc. But do you know there is one person who is always with you, while you are sleeping or awake.... That's Your Heart.... The Real You... In a way all your answers are perfectly right, but if you don't listen to your heart, then it can give you long-term pain. Nowadays, in a world of growing complexity, the pattern of human life has changed. The peace of one's mind is missing, and with the mind affected, the body takes a toll too. Disturbed lifestyles, irregular sleeping patterns, bad eating habits, among other factors, are leading to harmful lifestyle diseases. The heart is the prime organ of our body which regulates and facilitates blood-related functions throughout the body. At the same time, it is responsible for all the injunctions between other system with different organs, tissues and cells.

LISTEN TO YOUR HEART, IT WANTS TO TALK TO YOU
It is only with the heart that one can see right; what is essential is invisible to the eye.



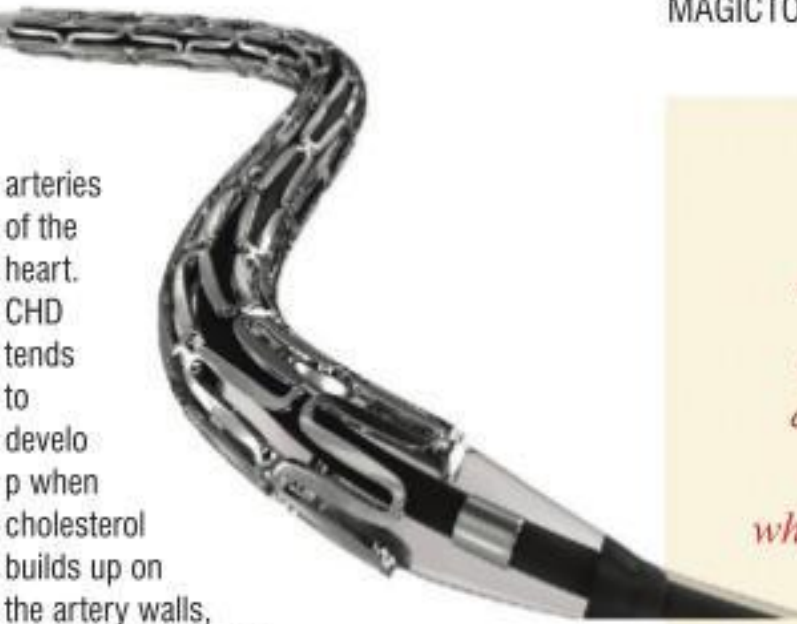
If you listen to your heart, you will enjoy every beat of your life to the fullest. The heart is the most hard-working muscular organ in our body. It works continuously for a mind-blowing duration, pumping life through your veins daily. It's time you help your heart out by listening to it and taking care of it.

As we all know, while the seat of love and soul is the heart, it is the seat of our life too. In the contemporary era, increased heart risk has become very noticeable. The mortality rate due to cardiovascular disease has increased in the past two decades. It's high time we led a healthy life to maintain a healthy heart.

"ACCORDING TO THE 'WHO', BY 2030 ALMOST 23.6 MILLION PEOPLE WILL DIE FROM A TYPE OF HEART DISEASE GLOBALLY"

Did you know that 1 in 3 adults has high blood pressure, a risk factor for strokes and heart attacks?

Coronary Heart Disease is most likely to happen due to blockage or constriction in the flow of blood through the



arteries of the heart. CHD tends to develop when cholesterol builds up on the artery walls, creating plaques. These plaques cause the arteries to narrow, reducing blood flow to the heart. A clot can sometimes obstruct the blood flow, causing serious health problems; especially due to the formation of stenosis, there is occurrence of such heart failure. Also, sometimes when the person has already been treated through stent implantation in the heart, there is still threat of in-stent restenosis.

The Solution...
Concept Medical specialises in developing

drug-delivery systems and has unique and patented technology platforms that can be deployed to deliver any drug/pharmaceutical agent across the luminal surfaces of blood vessels.

With the mission of "Converting Concepts into Reality", the company has developed MAGICTOUCH Sirolimus coated balloon,

With the mission of "Converting Concepts into Reality", the company has developed MAGICTOUCH Sirolimus coated balloon, which is the first drug-coated balloon with sirolimus approved by the European Union.

which is the first drug-coated balloon with sirolimus approved by the European Union. MAGICTOUCH SCB incorporates proprietary NANOLUTE technology. The unique drug delivery technology platform coated onto the MagicTouch balloon is designed to deliver sub-micron particle of Sirolimus, which are then encapsulated in a

biocompatible drug carrier. The drug and carrier complex are designed to reach the inner layers of the vessel walls and act as a reservoir for long-term release of Sirolimus.

MagicTouch is indicated for diffused, de-novo, ISR, bifurcation, small vessel lesions in coronary arteries.

MAGICTOUCH has been commercially used in

TIPS TO KEEP YOUR HEART HEALTHY:

- Live Smoke Free
- Monitor your Blood Pressure
- Maintain Healthy Weight
- Watch Your Cholesterol
- Control Your Blood Sugar
- Get Active with Daily Exercise
- Eat Heart Healthy Diet

And at last give your Heart – a time to cherish life "AS IT IS"

LIVE LIFE WITH A STRONG HEART

has received Breakthrough Device Designation from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Concept Medical has accumulated significant clinical data and initiated many ambitious ongoing/upcoming clinical programmes for MagicTouch.

With the motto of "Advancing Innovation", Envision Scientific, a group company of Concept Medical, has come out with

ABLUMINUS DES sirolimus-eluting stent with propriety ENVISOLUTION technology. ABLUMINUS DES is designed in a way that addresses unmet clinical needs, especially in diabetes and AMI patients with Coronary Artery Disease. The ENVISOLUTION Technology incorporates unique characteristics such as Abluminal coating which facilitates mono-directional drug release and less systemic exposure of drug, leading to faster re-endothelialisation; Fusion coating (both stent & exposed parts of balloon are coated) addresses diffused proliferative disease and focal restenosis; Additional 0.5 mm Coating on the edge of the balloon counters edge restenosis and formation of temporary biodegradable film facilitates maximum drug delivery in blood wet condition. ABLUMINUS DES has received CE approval for on-label indication for Diabetes Mellitus and Acute myocardial infarction.

>30,000 patients worldwide, with the highest usage in patients in the European region. Besides commercial sales, MAGICTOUCH has been evaluated extensively in clinical studies conducted in countries like the UK, Italy, and Brazil. MAGICTOUCH is also commercially available for patients in India and

f t @ in /conceptmedicals

#HelloFuture

Healthy 
Healthy You.
HAPPY WORLD HEART DAY

www.conceptmedical.com | info@conceptmedical.com

Concept
Medical



Kafeel Khan wants ‘self-respect’; UP govt says inquiry still on

MAULSHREE SETH & AMIL BHATNAGAR
LUCKNOW, NEW DELHI,
SEPTEMBER 28

WHILE DR Kafeel Khan, the suspended pediatrician of Gorakhpur’s BRD Medical College and Hospital, on Saturday said his “claim of innocence has been vindicated” and showed copy of a departmental inquiry that cleared him of certain charges, the Uttar Pradesh government said the inquiry process is still on, and no final decision has been taken yet.

According to officials, an additional departmental inquiry is going on against Khan for indiscipline, and for not following rules.

Mrityunjay Kumar, media adviser to UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, stated that Khan faces inquiries on four charges, and the inquiry found him guilty on two of those. He stated that details of the inquiry was “presented to the accused officer” for his reply, and that a final decision has not been taken yet.

Addressing the media in Delhi on Saturday, Khan said he has “gone through a lot” in these two years and demanded his “self-respect” back.

He demanded justice for the death of at least 60 infants at BRD Hospital in 2017 and presented the Medical Education Department’s internal inquiry report that cleared him of negligence in the particular case.

Khan said: “My claim of innocence has been vindicated. The report states that I was the junior-most doctor at the time. I had joined as a lecturer under probation and was not authorised with the upkeep of oxygen and other



Dr Kafeel Khan addresses the media on Saturday. Tashi Tobgyal

administrative decisions.”

In a statement, the UP government said Khan was found guilty of carrying out private practice against rules. He was posted as senior resident at the Pediatrics Department of BRD Hospital on May 23, 2013, and appointed lecturer at in August 2016, but, the government says, he continued his private practice.

According to the statement, although Khan’s 2013 appointment made it clear that he cannot run a private practice, his name was mentioned as a doctor in registration certificate of Medispring Hospital and Research Centre, Gorakhpur.

Another charge in which the government says Khan was found guilty of was operating a private nursing home while working as a government doctor. The government says Khan denied these allegations and said the charge of private practice has not been proven against him, without giving a “satisfactory answer”.

According to the state government, two charges that have not been established are that

Khan was present at the hospital when deaths of infants occurred, but he did not allegedly inform his seniors about shortage of oxygen. The inquiry found that on May 11, 2016, Dr Bhupendra Singh was in-charge of Ward 100 and that Khan had immediately informed his seniors about shortage of oxygen.

The government’s statement said the second charge that could not be established was that despite being responsible for the facilities, treatment and staff at sensitive department like Paediatrics, he did not allegedly fulfill his responsibilities. The inquiry found that Khan was not in-charge of Ward 100 and that the evidence given for this charge were not sufficient thus this charge could not be established.

On the accusation of private practice, Khan told *The Sunday Express*: “The report states that no tangible evidence was found on the claim, yet I have been declared guilty. The incident occurred in 2017, and I did private practice long before that. I carried out all paperwork while joining BRD Hospital.”

Status of police cases against UP doctor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKOW, SEPTEMBER 28

■ THE POLICE filed chargesheet against Khan and eight others in connection with deaths of 30 infants at BRD College on August 10-11, 2017, reportedly due to shortage of liquid oxygen.

All accused are presently out on bail. The police filed chargesheet against Khan under IPC Sections 409 (criminal breach of trust), 308 (culpable homicide attempt), and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) in November 2017.

Khan’s lawyer Krishna Nand Tiwari said, “The trial has not started yet. Arguments on discharge application is now on.”

Khan was not chargesheeted under Prevention of Corruption Act and Information Technology Act.

■ In September 2018, Khan and his elder brother, Adeel Ahmed, were arrested for allegedly opening a bank account at a PSU bank with fake documents. The police say the accused made transactions of Rs 2 crore from the account.

The FIR was filed against Adeel and his cousin Mohammad Faizan at Cantonment police station on a complaint by one Mudassar Alam, who alleged that the account in Faizan’s name used his photograph. Police said a bank draft was prepared from the

same account to pay Khan’s medical education fees at Manipal University, and since he was a beneficiary of the account, he was also made accused.

Adeel claimed they were falsely implicated. “There is no proof in the case. We remained in jail for a month and came out on bail.”

SHO, Cantonment, Ravi Rai said, “A probe is still on. We are trying to trace Faizan.”

■ An FIR was lodged against Khan on charges of attempt to murder, criminal intimidation, criminal breach of trust, and cheating.

SHO, City Kotwali, Jaideep Verma said the closure report was filed in December 2015.

■ A rape case lodged against Khan at Mahila Thana, Gorakhpur, in 2015.

SHO, Kotwali, Jaideep Verma said a closure report was filed in November 2015.

■ A case of cheating was filed against Khan at Janakpuri police station, New Delhi, in 2009. Police records show chargesheet was filed in 2011.

Adeel said, “Dr Kafeel is presently out on bail in the case. Trial has not started yet.”

■ Bahraich police had arrested Khan and two others for allegedly creating nuisance at the district hospital in September last year. They were booked under CrPC Section 151 (breach of peace).

The court later granted all three bail in the case.

MARADU APARTMENTS

Flats to be razed by controlled explosion

SHAJU PHILIP
KOCHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE FOUR apartment complexes at Maradu in Emakulam district, which were raised in violation of CRZ norms, will be brought down using the controlled demolition method involving explosives.

The demolition of the apartments, with 343 units, became inevitable in the wake of a Supreme Court order serving an ultimatum to the state government to comply with its demolition directive of May 8.

Fort Kochi sub-collector Snehil Kumar Singh, who has been appointed special officer to oversee the implementation of the demolition order, said, “As per the Supreme Court directive, we have a very short period to execute the demolition. Hence, we will use the controlled structural demolition, which is also known as implosion.”

Singh said the agency that will carry out the controlled explosion would be selected on

Orientation begins for new members of Assam FTs

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 28

ASSAM’S HOME and Political Department in collaboration with the state’s Judicial Academy Saturday kicked off a two-day orientation programme for the 221 newly-recruited members of Foreigners’ Tribunals (FTs).

The move comes amid the exclusion of 19 lakh people in the final NRC published last month and these people will get a chance to appeal against their exclusions at the FTs — Assam has 100 such tribunals. To tackle the high burden of appeals, 200 new FTs are in the process of being launched and another 200 are scheduled to start work by the end of the year.

A government press statement said, “Kumar Sanjay Krishna, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, Home and Political Department, in his address explained the importance of the role of the FT members in the context of NRC and its subsequent phases. He mentioned that the new 200 Foreigners’ Tribunals will start functioning shortly and another 200 will follow soon...”

October 9 as a sequel to the expression of interest invited for it. “The demolition work will begin on October 11. As we have to complete the process in 138 days, we have decided to go for implosion. Four flats will be demolished the same day, but the exact timing of the explosions would be staggered.”

The special officer said that as per a preliminary evaluation, around 5,000 families living in radius of 500 metres from the place of demolition will have to be evacuated for a couple of hours. “They need not stay away from their premises for several days. It is a safe method employed at many places,” he said.

As per the time frame fixed by the state government, the four-day-long evacuation of flat residents will begin on Sunday.

After the SC ordered the government to pay interim compensation of Rs 25 lakh to each owner and formed a committee to levy the entire damages from the builders, many owners climbed down from their earlier stand that

they would not move out.

“Some are willing to move out, while others are not ready. We have told them there is no option but to comply with the SC order. We have identified around 400 flats in and around Kochi where the evacuated resident can stay,” the special officer said.

However, the residents said they would move out only if the government pays for rent. “We want the government to pay for our relocation and rent of the new flats. We will shift only if we are given decent premises,” said Shamsudeen Karunagapally, chairman of Maradu Home Protection Samithi.

To allow the residents to move out, the authorities have decided to restore supply of water and power, which had been snapped three days ago.

The special officer said the government has not taken any decision on paying rent for the owners.

As evacuation and demolition looked imminent, tenants of the flats have begun to leave.

After reports of brutality, Assam cops take steps for people-friendly policing

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 28

ASSAM POLICE has initiated new processes in a bid to bridge the gap between the force and the public, in response to allegations of brutality by its personnel earlier this month, DGP Kuladhar Saikia said on Saturday.

Saikia and other top police officers in Guwahati addressed police heads of districts and ranges via video conference this week and advised them on how to improve interaction with the public and bridge the gap between the constabulary and higher officers.

There have been two allegations of policemen beating relatives of accused persons this month, one in Darrang district and another in Barpeta district. Inquiries are being conducted on both incidents. An inquiry is also being conducted into the alleged thrashing of an Assam Civil Service officer by the SP of Kokrajhar district.

Speaking to *The Sunday Express*, Saikia said, “We should have cordial behaviour so that reporting and recording of

crimes are done without fear. People need to trust us. I have told senior officers that the gap between them and personnel on the ground has to be narrowed.”

About the new processes, he said, “The district SP will visit one police station each in his district and attend the evening roll call. The officers will listen to and advice the constabulary. Constables will be encouraged to share with the SP the difficulties they are facing and the SPs will advise them. Suggestions of constables will be noted. The DIG of the range will also visit a police station at least a week. These steps are in continuity with our efforts of people-friendly policing.”

“We have also reiterated that corruption at any level will be dealt with sternly,” Saikia, a Sahitya Akademi award-winning writer, said.

On Friday, a sub-inspector in Guwahati was arrested for allegedly demanding bribe of Rs 50,000 from a bank official. In July, two police officers and a home guard were arrested for robbing a woman from Mizoram of Rs 20 lakh in Guwahati.

GURU NANAK BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

8 Sikhs serving life term to be released, says MHA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE GOVERNMENT has decided to release eight Sikhs serving life sentence for their acts of violence during Punjab militancy. They will be released from prison on the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev in November as a humanitarian gesture.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has also announced that through special remission, the death sentence of another Sikh prisoner has been commuted to life imprisonment.

The decision was taken by the

Centre as a token of goodwill in response to long-pending demands for the release of Sikh prisoners articulated by various sections of the Sikh community, an MHA spokesperson said. A communication to this effect was sent on Saturday to state governments and Union territories concerned for release of the Sikh prisoners.

While the MHA did not reveal names of any of the prisoners, sources had earlier said that Akali Dal’s Badals had met then Home Minister Rajnath Singh in connection with commuting of the death sentence of Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted of the killing of former Punjab CM Beant Singh.

BHU prof facing harassment charge told to take compulsory retirement

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 28

THE EXECUTIVE Council of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has asked Zoology Department’s Shail Kumar Choubey to take compulsory retirement over allegations of sexual harassment of at least 36 students during an educational tour last year.

Vice-Chancellor Rakesh Bhatnagar said the decision was taken at the council meeting in Delhi on Friday.

Choubey was suspended in October last year but was recently reinstated by the Executive

Council headed by the V-C. The decision triggered protests by students earlier this month, who demanded Choubey’s suspension and a police case against him. He was then asked to go on leave till the council took a final decision.

University spokesperson Rajesh Singh said that the council had in July decided to not send Choubey on any educational tour or be given any such responsibility. However, the students protested the decision and asked for a review, said Singh.

“The students refused to attend Choubey’s classes and protested for two days. They demanded that he be suspended.

Following this, the council promised to review the decision and the matter was raised prominently in the Friday meeting. It was decided that Choubey be given compulsory retirement. Soon, the minutes of the meeting will be uploaded, and a copy of the decision will be served to Choubey within a fortnight,” he said.

Choubey on Saturday denied having received any official information regarding the council decision. “I do not have any update on what happened in the council meeting. I only heard this through media reports... I have done nothing wrong on my part... I am innocent,” he said.

FROM PAGE ONE

Village teacher’s ‘Ramanujan’ maths test is now Sangrur’s annual showpiece

counterparts from other schools and took the lead in organising a multiple choice test for students on December 22, the birth anniversary of the legendary mathematician S Ramanujan.

With help from the government, the first test in 2013-14 drew 1,002 students from 100 schools in the district. In 2017-18, the Ramanujan test drew 6,805 students from 405 government schools in Sangrur and Patiala. That test was held in 24 centres in the two districts, and was monitored by 500 teachers.

“In 2012, I started a monthly general knowledge test called Udaan, which was taken over by the government in 2013. Then I began to think of ways to make mathematics interesting. That’s when I decided to start a maths test on similar lines. It helped that I was already in touch with most schools for Udaan. This is how the journey to the Ramanujan test began,” Dyal, 45, said.

“The idea worked well, and in 2014, we included students from the middle classes as well. In 2015-16, we involved students from Classes 4 and 5, too. In 2018-19, we could not organise the exam as many teachers were involved in an agitation over changes in the regularisation of their employment. But we are all set to continue the test... this year, it will be held in November,” Dyal said.

According to local officials and teachers, the test has gone a long way in changing perceptions about maths being a “boring and

difficult” subject.

“Dyal’s individual efforts have been very helpful in generating interest in mathematics among children, apart from making them competitive,” Devinder Singh Boha, project coordinator of ‘Padho Punjab’ from the State Council of Education and Research Training (SCERT), said.

The participation fee in the test for each student is Rs 20. The top three in Classes 9 and 10 get Rs 5,100, Rs 3,100 and Rs 2,100 respectively in prize money; in the middle section, the prizes are Rs 3,100, Rs 2,100 and Rs 1,100; and in primary, Rs 2,100, Rs 1,100 and Rs 800. The top 21 get medals, too.

Harish Kumar, a maths teacher from the senior secondary school in Bhawanigarh who is part of this initiative, said the test is conducted in three slots — for Classes 9 and 10, Classes 6 to 8, and Classes 4 and 5.

“The 90-minute test on OMR sheets involves 100 multiple choice questions each for the high school and middle sections, and 60 for the primary level. Each correct answer fetches 3 marks, but each wrong answer results in the loss of 1 mark. The questions are in Punjabi as most students of government schools are more comfortable in the language,” Prince Singla, Dyal’s colleague, said.

According to Dyal, the last test cost around Rs 3 lakh to conduct. “We collected around Rs 1.35 lakh in fees, and the balance was arranged through donations from teachers, industrialists, and donors in Sangrur and nearby areas. The Education Department helped us a lot by providing classrooms and other infrastructure,” he said.

The results, Dyal said, are heartening.

“In 2014-15, Sunny Kumar, a Class 10 student of a government school in Bhindra, topped a group scoring 228 out of 300. Sunny is the son of a migrant factory worker. Once the results came out, a coaching institute in Chandigarh provided him free coaching for Classes 11 and 12,” he said.

Kumar told The Sunday Express that the “maths test changed my life”. “We hail from Bihar and my father still works in a factory. When I was in Class 10, I had no idea about my future. I was fond of mathematics and when I topped that test, the coaching institute took me to Chandigarh. Now, I am a third-year student pursuing B.Tech in Computer Science in Punjabi University, Patiala,” the 20-year-old said.

Amrajeet Singh, another topper, is the son of a farm labourer, and now in his final year in college.

Jaspreet Singh, who topped the last test, is a Class 11 student at a government school in Sangrur. “Our school hasn’t had a maths teacher since the previous teacher was transferred. I study with the help of the Internet, and approach retired teachers from our school for help. Maths has become such an interesting subject for me,” he said.

It’s not just the test, Dyal said. “We send practice sheets to schools and syllabus for competitive exams. We sourced the school syllabus to prepare a separate syllabus for the test. I am sure this has enhanced learning levels. Last month, I released a book in Punjabi with questions from previous tests, and additional questions. We are thinking of translating it into English,” Dyal said.

The initiative appears to have had an impact on teachers, too.

This year, when the state government felicitated school teachers who ensured 100 per cent results in their subjects, there were 221 from Sangrur on the list — and 170 were maths teachers.

After war of words at UN, protests in Valley, curbs back

Jammu & Kashmir’s special status.

Srinagar woke up on Saturday to police and paramilitary forces back in strength on the streets, and concertina wires and metallic barricades blocking major roads. A police vehicle did the rounds announcing re-imposition of restrictions on civilian movement and ordering people to stay indoors. The few shops that had opened in the city centre for early-morning sales — as they have been doing in Srinagar and other parts of the Valley from 7 to 9 am — were forced to down shutters. Police and paramilitary also blocked the roads leading to the clock tower in city centre Lal Chowk.

Police sources said the restrictions were re-imposed as a precautionary measure, after Khan said in his UNGA speech that there would be violence consequent to India’s actions in Kashmir. Soon after he had finished his speech, in which he also sought international intervention in Kashmir, people took to the streets in parts of Srinagar such as Nishat, Shalimar and Harwan, holding torchlights and protesting against scrapping of special status and bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories. Protests were also reported else-

where in the Valley.

The restrictions came back barely 12 hours after the government claimed that day-time curbs on civilian movement had been lifted across the Valley. Immediately after Khan’s speech, J&K, Secretary, Information M K Divedi had tweeted, late on Friday night: “Daytime restrictions relaxed from all 105 police station jurisdictions in Kashmir. So now no restrictions in all 22 districts of Jammu and Kashmir.”

Sources said that apart from Srinagar, curbs were also back in Anantnag and Awantipora in South Kashmir, Ganderbal in Central Kashmir and Kupwara and Handwara towns in North Kashmir. In other areas, while forces were deployed in large numbers, people were allowed to move around.

Saturday also saw an encounter between militants and joint forces in Trunkhal area, located in the higher reaches of Ganderbal district. The Army said one militant was killed “and warlike stores recovered”.

The encounter was the first in the Valley since Thursday, when NSA Ajit Doval asked security agencies to step up anti-militancy operations.

In Srinagar, CRPF men came under attack in Nawakadal area of Old City. A CRPF spokesperson said a grenade was lobbed on the troops of 49 Battalion. “Grenade blasted at a distance... No loss or injury was reported,” the spokesperson said.

Since August 5, only one encounter and a brief shootout between security forces and militants had been reported, both in North Kashmir.

The Jammu region also saw an encounter on Saturday, with the Army killing three terrorists reportedly wanted for their involve-

ment in the killing of a senior BJP leader and an RSS functionary 11 months ago, at Batote town in Ramban district. It was the first encounter in the town in the three decades of insurgency in the state. An Army jawan lost his life while two policemen sustained injuries during the firefight, that lasted nearly three hours.

Justice Ramana’s Bench could hear Art 370 petitions beginning Oct 1

confirmed that the Bench had been constituted. They said that an official notification naming the other judges on the Bench would be uploaded soon on the court’s website.

A Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India had on August 28 said that the clutch of petitions challenging the changes to Article 370 — effected by means of a Presidential Order on August 5, and subsequently ratified by Parliament — would be heard by a five-judge Constitution Bench in the first week of October.

The court had issued notice to the Centre, overruling its plea that taking up the petitions would have “cross-border repercussions”, and “statements made here” would be sent to the United Nations. The petitions accuse the Centre of tampering with the federal structure of the Union under the Constitution, with repercussions beyond just J&K.

Among the petitioners are National Conference Lok Sabha MPs Mohammad Akbar Lone (Baramulla) and Hasnain Masoodi (Anantnag). They have argued that the Centre unconstitutionally used Article 370 to undo Article 370, and “substi-

tute(d) the concurrence of the Governor for that of the Government”, which “effectively... amounts to the Central Government... taking its own consent... to change the very character of a federal unit”.

The Presidential Order, according to the petitioners, used “a temporary situation meant to hold the field until the return of the elected government, to accomplish a fundamental, permanent, and irreversible alteration of the status of the State of Jammu and Kashmir without the concurrence, consultation or recommendation of the people of that State, acting through their elected representatives”.

This, they said, amounted to an “overnight abrogation of the democratic rights and freedoms guaranteed to the people of the State... upon its accession”.

Lone and Masoodi have also said that the Constitution does not allow downgrading of the state to an UT.

A separate petition, filed by Radha Kumar, a former member of the Home Ministry’s Group of Interlocutors for J&K, and others, contends that the amendments “strike at the heart of the principles on

which the State of J&K integrated into India... especially as they had no affirmation/sanction from the people of J&K (which) is a constitutional imperative...”.

Petitions have also been filed by former IAS officer Shah Faesal, activist Shehla Rashid, and advocates Shakir Shahab, M L Sharma, Vineet Dhandia, and others.

The Supreme Court is also seized of a bunch of related petitions challenging the detentions and “communication blackout” in J&K in the wake of the Centre’s August 5 decision.

Hearing them on September 16, the court had asked the J&K administration to “ensure that normal life is restored in Kashmir... keeping in mind national interest”, even as it had seen “formidable reasons” behind the government’s move to enforce the restrictions.

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रान्समिशन कार्पोरेशन लि. निविदा

विस्तारिकरण सूचना प्रशासनिक कार्यों से ई-निविदा संख्या टी-123/19-20 दिनांक 05.10.2019 तक विस्तारित की जाती है। हस्ता./अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत परेषण मंडल उ.प्र.पा.ट्रा.का.लि., 400 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र, पाली, ग्रेटर नोएडा। “राष्ट्र हित में ऊर्जा बचाएँ”। कृपया वेब साईट etender.up.nic.in पर सभी सूचना, अन्य संशोधन/विस्तार हेतु निविदा खुलने की तिथि तक लॉग ऑन करें। पत्रांक 1779 वि.पा.मं./प्र.अ./T-123/2019-20 दिनांक:- 28.09.2019

Uttarakhand Transport Corporation, H.Q. 1, Raj Vihar, Chakrata Road, Dehradun

No 7558/H.Q./Tech/E-Tender/Electric bus/2019 Date: 28.09.2019

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited, from well reputed manufacturers/Joint Venture for the operation and maintenance of fully built pure electric buses on Gross Cost Contract basis under FAME-II scheme as per following schedules:-

1- Last date of downloading tender form- 22.10.2019 Up to 13.00 Hrs

2- Pre bid meeting Date- 11.10.2019 at 11.00 Hrs

3- Last Date for Online submission of tender form- 22.10.2019 Up to 14.00 Hrs.

4-Tender Opening date (Technical bid)- 22.10.2019 at 15.00 Hrs

The tender document are available online on <http://uktenders.gov.in> the bidder can download the documents from above website. The tender can be submitted along with the cost of tender in the form of DD in favour of Managing Director Uttarakhand Transport Corporation Dehradun.

General Manager (Tech), E-mail-utc.gmtech@gmail.com



‘Vindicated’, says Kafeel Khan; UP govt says inquiry still on

MAULSHREE SETH & AMIL BHATNAGAR
LUCKNOW, NEW DELHI,
SEPTEMBER 28

WHILE DR Kafeel Khan, the suspended pediatrician of Gorakhpur’s BRD Medical College and Hospital, on Saturday said his “claim of innocence has been vindicated” and showed copy of a departmental inquiry that cleared him of certain charges, the Uttar Pradesh government said the inquiry process is still on, and no final decision has been taken yet.

According to officials, an additional departmental inquiry is going on against Khan for indiscipline, and for not following rules.

Mrityunjay Kumar, media adviser to UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, stated that Khan faces inquiries on four charges, and the inquiry found him guilty on two of those. He stated that details of the inquiry was “presented to the accused officer” for his reply, and that a final decision has not been taken yet.

Addressing the media in Delhi on Saturday, Khan said he has “gone through a lot” in these two years and demanded his “self-respect” back.

He demanded justice for the death of at least 60 infants at BRD Hospital in 2017 and presented the Medical Education Department’s internal inquiry report that cleared him of negligence in the particular case.

Khan said: “My claim of innocence has been vindicated. The report states that I was the junior-most doctor at the time. I had joined as a lecturer under probation and was not authorised with the upkeep of oxygen and other



Dr Kafeel Khan addresses the media on Saturday. Tashi Tobgyal

administrative decisions.”

In a statement, the UP government said Khan was found guilty of carrying out private practice against rules. He was posted as senior resident at the Pediatrics Department of BRD Hospital on May 23, 2013, and appointed lecturer at in August 2016, but, the government says, he continued his private practice.

According to the statement, although Khan’s 2013 appointment made it clear that he cannot run a private practice, his name was mentioned as a doctor in registration certificate of Medispring Hospital and Research Centre, Gorakhpur.

Another charge in which the government says Khan was found guilty of was operating a private nursing home while working as a government doctor. The government says Khan denied these allegations and said the charge of private practice has not been proven against him, without giving a “satisfactory answer”.

According to the state government, two charges that have not been established are that

Khan was present at the hospital when deaths of infants occurred, but he did not allegedly inform his seniors about shortage of oxygen. The inquiry found that on May 11, 2016, Dr Bhupendra Singh was in-charge of Ward 100 and that Khan had immediately informed his seniors about shortage of oxygen.

The government’s statement said the second charge that could not be established was that despite being responsible for the facilities, treatment and staff at sensitive department like Paediatrics, he did not allegedly fulfill his responsibilities. The inquiry found that Khan was not in-charge of Ward 100 and that the evidence given for this charge were not sufficient thus this charge could not be established.

On the accusation of private practice, Khan told *The Sunday Express*: “The report states that no tangible evidence was found on the claim, yet I have been declared guilty. The incident occurred in 2017, and I did private practice long before that. I carried out all paperwork while joining BRD Hospital.”

Status of police cases against UP doctor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKOW, SEPTEMBER 28

■ THE POLICE filed chargesheet against Khan and eight others in connection with deaths of 30 infants at BRD College on August 10-11, 2017, reportedly due to shortage of liquid oxygen.

All accused are presently out on bail. The police filed chargesheet against Khan under IPC Sections 409 (criminal breach of trust), 308 (culpable homicide attempt), and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) in November 2017.

Khan’s lawyer Krishna Nand Tiwari said, “The trial has not started yet. Arguments on discharge application is now on.”

Khan was not chargesheeted under Prevention of Corruption Act and Information Technology Act.

■ In September 2018, Khan and his elder brother, Adeel Ahmed, were arrested for allegedly opening a bank account at a PSU bank with fake documents. The police say the accused made transactions of Rs 2 crore from the account.

The FIR was filed against Adeel and his cousin Mohammad Faizan at Cantonment police station on a complaint by one Mudassar Alam, who alleged that the account in Faizan’s name used his photograph. Police said a bank draft was prepared from the

same account to pay Khan’s medical education fees at Manipal University, and since he was a beneficiary of the account, he was also made accused.

Adeel claimed they were falsely implicated. “There is no proof in the case. We remained in jail for a month and came out on bail.”

SHO, Cantonment, Ravi Rai said, “A probe is still on. We are trying to trace Faizan.”

■ An FIR was lodged against Khan on charges of attempt to murder, criminal intimidation, criminal breach of trust, and cheating.

SHO, City Kotwali, Jaideep Verma said the closure report was filed in December 2015.

■ A rape case lodged against Khan at Mahila Thana, Gorakhpur, in 2015.

SHO, Kotwali, Jaideep Verma said a closure report was filed in November 2015.

■ A case of cheating was filed against Khan at Janakpuri police station, New Delhi, in 2009. Police records show chargesheet was filed in 2011.

Adeel said, “Dr Kafeel is presently out on bail in the case. Trial has not started yet.”

■ Bahraich police had arrested Khan and two others for allegedly creating nuisance at the district hospital in September last year. They were booked under CrPC Section 151 (breach of peace).

The court later granted all three bail in the case.

CRZ VIOLATION BY MARADU APARTMENTS

Flats to be razed by controlled explosion

SHAJU PHILIP
KOCHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE FOUR apartment complexes at Maradu in Emakulam district, which were raised in violation of CRZ norms, will be brought down using the controlled demolition method involving explosives.

The demolition of the apartments, with 343 units, became inevitable in the wake of a Supreme Court order serving an ultimatum to the state government to comply with its demolition directive of May 8.

Fort Kochi sub-collector Snehil Kumar Singh, who has been appointed special officer to oversee the implementation of the demolition order, said, “As per the Supreme Court directive, we have a very short period to execute the demolition. Hence, we will use the controlled structural demolition, which is also known as implosion.”

Singh said the agency that will carry out the controlled explosion would be selected on

Orientation begins for new members of Assam FTs

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 28

ASSAM’S HOME and Political Department in collaboration with the state’s Judicial Academy Saturday kicked off a two-day orientation programme for the 221 newly-recruited members of Foreigners’ Tribunals (FTs).

The move comes amid the exclusion of 19 lakh people in the final NRC published last month and these people will get a chance to appeal against their exclusions at the FTs — Assam has 100 such tribunals. To tackle the high burden of appeals, 200 new FTs are in the process of being launched and another 200 are scheduled to start work by the end of the year.

A government press statement said, “Kumar Sanjay Krishna, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, Home and Political Department, in his address explained the importance of the role of the FT members in the context of NRC and its subsequent phases. He mentioned that the new 200 Foreigners’ Tribunals will start functioning shortly and another 200 will follow soon...”

October 9 as a sequel to the expression of interest invited for it. “The demolition work will begin on October 11. As we have to complete the process in 138 days, we have decided to go for implosion. Four flats will be demolished the same day, but the exact timing of the explosions would be staggered.”

The special officer said that as per a preliminary evaluation, around 5,000 families living in radius of 500 metres from the place of demolition will have to be evacuated for a couple of hours. “They need not stay away from their premises for several days. It is a safe method employed at many places,” he said.

As per the time frame fixed by the state government, the four-day-long evacuation of flat residents will begin on Sunday.

After the SC ordered the government to pay interim compensation of Rs 25 lakh to each owner and formed a committee to levy the entire damages from the builders, many owners climbed down from their earlier stand that

they would not move out.

“Some are willing to move out, while others are not ready. We have told them there is no option but to comply with the SC order. We have identified around 400 flats in and around Kochi where the evacuated resident can stay,” the special officer said.

However, the residents said they would move out only if the government pays for rent. “We want the government to pay for our relocation and rent of the new flats. We will shift only if we are given decent premises,” said Shamsudeen Karunagapally, chairman of Maradu Home Protection Samithi.

To allow the residents to move out, the authorities have decided to restore supply of water and power, which had been snapped three days ago.

The special officer said the government has not taken any decision on paying rent for the owners.

As evacuation and demolition looked imminent, tenants of the flats have begun to leave.

After reports of brutality, Assam cops take steps for people-friendly policing

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 28

ASSAM POLICE has initiated new processes in a bid to bridge the gap between the force and the public, in response to allegations of brutality by its personnel earlier this month, DGP Kuladhar Saikia said on Saturday.

Saikia and other top police officers in Guwahati addressed police heads of districts and ranges via video conference this week and advised them on how to improve interaction with the public and bridge the gap between the constabulary and higher officers.

There have been two allegations of policemen beating relatives of accused persons this month, one in Darrang district and another in Barpeta district. Inquiries are being conducted on both incidents. An inquiry is also being conducted into the alleged thrashing of an Assam Civil Service officer by the SP of Kokrajhar district.

Speaking to *The Sunday Express*, Saikia said, “We should have cordial behaviour so that reporting and recording of

crimes are done without fear. People need to trust us. I have told senior officers that the gap between them and personnel on the ground has to be narrowed.”

About the new processes, he said, “The district SP will visit one police station each in his district and attend the evening roll call. The officers will listen to and advice the constabulary. Constables will be encouraged to share with the SP the difficulties they are facing and the SPs will advise them. Suggestions of constables will be noted. The DIG of the range will also visit a police station at least a week. These steps are in continuity with our efforts of people-friendly policing.”

“We have also reiterated that corruption at any level will be dealt with sternly,” Saikia, a Sahitya Akademi award-winning writer, said.

On Friday, a sub-inspector in Guwahati was arrested for allegedly demanding bribe of Rs 50,000 from a bank official. In July, two police officers and a home guard were arrested for robbing a woman from Mizoram of Rs 20 lakh in Guwahati.

GURU NANAK BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

8 Sikhs serving life term to be released, says MHA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE GOVERNMENT has decided to release eight Sikhs serving life sentence for their acts of violence during Punjab militancy. They will be released from prison on the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev in November as a humanitarian gesture.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has also announced that through special remission, the death sentence of another Sikh prisoner has been commuted to life imprisonment.

The decision was taken by the

Centre as a token of goodwill in response to long-pending demands for the release of Sikh prisoners articulated by various sections of the Sikh community, an MHA spokesperson said. A communication to this effect was sent on Saturday to state governments and Union territories concerned for release of the Sikh prisoners.

While the MHA did not reveal names of any of the prisoners, sources had earlier said that Akali Dal’s Badals had met then Home Minister Rajnath Singh in connection with commuting of the death sentence of Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted of the killing of former Punjab CM Beant Singh.

BHU prof facing harassment charge told to take compulsory retirement

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 28

THE EXECUTIVE Council of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has asked Zoology Department’s Shail Kumar Choubey to take compulsory retirement over allegations of sexual harassment of at least 36 students during an educational tour last year.

Vice-Chancellor Rakesh Bhatnagar said the decision was taken at the council meeting in Delhi on Friday.

Choubey was suspended in October last year but was recently reinstated by the Executive

Council headed by the V-C. The decision triggered protests by students earlier this month, who demanded Choubey’s suspension and a police case against him. He was then asked to go on leave till the council took a final decision.

University spokesperson Rajesh Singh said that the council had in July decided to not send Choubey on any educational tour or be given any such responsibility. However, the students protested the decision and asked for a review, said Singh.

“The students refused to attend Choubey’s classes and protested for two days. They demanded that he be suspended.

Following this, the council promised to review the decision and the matter was raised prominently in the Friday meeting. It was decided that Choubey be given compulsory retirement. Soon, the minutes of the meeting will be uploaded, and a copy of the decision will be served to Choubey within a fortnight,” he said.

Choubey on Saturday denied having received any official information regarding the council decision. “I do not have any update on what happened in the council meeting. I only heard this through media reports... I have done nothing wrong on my part... I am innocent,” he said.

FROM PAGE ONE

Village teacher’s ‘Ramanujan’ maths test is now Sangrur’s annual showpiece

counterparts from other schools and took the lead in organising a multiple choice test for students on December 22, the birth anniversary of the legendary mathematician S Ramanujan.

With help from the government, the first test in 2013-14 drew 1,002 students from 100 schools in the district. In 2017-18, the Ramanujan test drew 6,805 students from 405 government schools in Sangrur and Patiala. That test was held in 24 centres in the two districts, and was monitored by 500 teachers.

“In 2012, I started a monthly general knowledge test called Udaan, which was taken over by the government in 2013. Then I began to think of ways to make mathematics interesting. That’s when I decided to start a maths test on similar lines. It helped that I was already in touch with most schools for Udaan. This is how the journey to the Ramanujan test began,” Dyal, 45, said.

“The idea worked well, and in 2014, we included students from the middle classes as well. In 2015-16, we involved students from Classes 4 and 5, too. In 2018-19, we could not organise the exam as many teachers were involved in an agitation over changes in the regularisation of their employment. But we are all set to continue the test... this year, it will be held in November,” Dyal said.

According to local officials and teachers, the test has gone a long way in changing perceptions about maths being a “boring and

difficult” subject.

“Dyal’s individual efforts have been very helpful in generating interest in mathematics among children, apart from making them competitive,” Devinder Singh Boha, project coordinator of ‘Padho Punjab’ from the State Council of Education and Research Training (SCERT), said.

The participation fee in the test for each student is Rs 20. The top three in Classes 9 and 10 get Rs 5,100, Rs 3,100 and Rs 2,100 respectively in prize money; in the middle section, the prizes are Rs 3,100, Rs 2,100 and Rs 1,100; and in primary, Rs 2,100, Rs 1,100 and Rs 800. The top 21 get medals, too.

Harish Kumar, a maths teacher from the senior secondary school in Bhawanigarh who is part of this initiative, said the test is conducted in three slots — for Classes 9 and 10, Classes 6 to 8, and Classes 4 and 5.

“The 90-minute test on OMR sheets involves 100 multiple choice questions each for the high school and middle sections, and 60 for the primary level. Each correct answer fetches 3 marks, but each wrong answer results in the loss of 1 mark. The questions are in Punjabi as most students of government schools are more comfortable in the language,” Prince Singla, Dyal’s colleague, said.

According to Dyal, the last test cost around Rs 3 lakh to conduct. “We collected around Rs 1.35 lakh in fees, and the balance was arranged through donations from teachers, industrialists, and donors in Sangrur and nearby areas. The Education Department helped us a lot by providing classrooms and other infrastructure,” he said.

The results, Dyal said, are heartening.

“In 2014-15, Sunny Kumar, a Class 10 student of a government school in Bhindra, topped a group scoring 228 out of 300. Sunny is the son of a migrant factory worker. Once the results came out, a coaching institute in Chandigarh provided him free coaching for Classes 11 and 12,” he said.

Kumar told *The Sunday Express* that the “maths test changed my life”.

“We hail from Bihar and my father still works in a factory. When I was in Class 10, I had no idea about my future. I was fond of mathematics and when I topped that test, the coaching institute took me to Chandigarh. Now, I am a third-year student pursuing B.Tech in Computer Science in Punjabi University, Patiala,” the 20-year-old said.

Amrajeet Singh, another topper, is the son of a farm labourer, and now in his final year in college.

Jaspreet Singh, who topped the last test, is a Class 11 student at a government school in Sangrur. “Our school hasn’t had a maths teacher since the previous teacher was transferred. I study with the help of the Internet, and approach retired teachers from our school for help. Maths has become such an interesting subject for me,” he said.

It’s not just the test, Dyal said. “We send practice sheets to schools and syllabus for competitive exams. We sourced the school syllabus to prepare a separate syllabus for the test. I am sure this has enhanced learning levels. Last month, I released a book in Punjabi with questions from previous tests, and additional questions. We are thinking of translating it into English,” Dyal said.

The initiative appears to have had an impact on teachers, too.

This year, when the state government felicitated school teachers who ensured 100 per cent results in their subjects, there were 221 from Sangrur on the list — and 170 were maths teachers.

After war of words at UN, protests in Valley, curbs back

Jammu & Kashmir’s special status.

Srinagar woke up on Saturday to police and paramilitary forces back in strength on the streets, and concertina wires and metallic barricades blocking major roads. A police vehicle did the rounds announcing re-imposition of restrictions on civilian movement and ordering people to stay indoors. The few shops that had opened in the city centre for early-morning sales — as they have been doing in Srinagar and other parts of the Valley from 7 to 9 am — were forced to down shutters. Police and paramilitary also blocked the roads leading to the clock tower in city centre Lal Chowk.

Police sources said the restrictions were re-imposed as a precautionary measure, after Khan said in his UNGA speech that there would be violence consequent to India’s actions in Kashmir. Soon after he had finished his speech, in which he also sought international intervention in Kashmir, people took to the streets in parts of Srinagar such as Nishat, Shalimar and Harwan, holding torchlights and protesting against scrapping of special status and bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories. Protests were also reported else-

where in the Valley.

The restrictions came back barely 12 hours after the government claimed that day-time curbs on civilian movement had been lifted across the Valley. Immediately after Khan’s speech, J&K, Secretary, Information M K Dvivedi had tweeted, late on Friday night: “Daytime restrictions relaxed from all 105 police station jurisdictions in Kashmir. So now no restrictions in all 22 districts of Jammu and Kashmir.”

Sources said that apart from Srinagar, curbs were also back in Anantnag and Awantipora in South Kashmir, Ganderbal in Central Kashmir and Kupwara and Handwara towns in North Kashmir. In other areas, while forces were deployed in large numbers, people were allowed to move around.

Saturday also saw an encounter between militants and joint forces in Trunkhal area, located in the higher reaches of Ganderbal district. The Army said one militant was killed “and warlike stores recovered”.

The encounter was the first in the Valley since Thursday, when NSA Ajit Doval asked security agencies to step up anti-militancy operations.

In Srinagar, CRPF men came under attack in Nawakadal area of Old City. A CRPF spokesperson said a grenade was lobbed on the troops of 49 Battalion. “Grenade blasted at a distance... No loss or injury was reported,” the spokesperson said.

Since August 5, only one encounter and a brief shootout between security forces and militants had been reported, both in North Kashmir.

The Jammu region also saw an encounter on Saturday, with the Army killing three terrorists reportedly wanted for their involve-

ment in the killing of a senior BJP leader and an RSS functionary 11 months ago, at Batote town in Ramban district. It was the first encounter in the town in the three decades of insurgency in the state. An Army jawan lost his life while two policemen sustained injuries during the firefight, that lasted nearly three hours.

Justice Ramana’s Bench could hear Art 370 petitions beginning Oct 1

confirmed that the Bench had been constituted. They said that an official notification naming the other judges on the Bench would be uploaded soon on the court’s website.

A Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India had on August 28 said that the clutch of petitions challenging the changes to Article 370 — effected by means of a Presidential Order on August 5, and subsequently ratified by Parliament — would be heard by a five-judge Constitution Bench in the first week of October.

The court had issued notice to the Centre, overruling its plea that taking up the petitions would have “cross-border repercussions”, and “statements made here” would be sent to the United Nations. The petitions accuse the Centre of tampering with the federal structure of the Union under the Constitution, with repercussions beyond just J&K.

Among the petitioners are National Conference Lok Sabha MPs Mohammad Akbar Lone (Baramulla) and Hasnain Masoodi (Anantnag). They have argued that the Centre unconstitutionally used Article 370 to undo Article 370, and “substi-

tute(d) the concurrence of the Governor for that of the Government”, which “effectively... amounts to the Central Government... taking its own consent... to change the very character of a federal unit”.

The Presidential Order, according to the petitioners, used “a temporary situation meant to hold the field until the return of the elected government, to accomplish a fundamental, permanent, and irreversible alteration of the status of the State of Jammu and Kashmir without the concurrence, consultation or recommendation of the people of that State, acting through their elected representatives”.

This, they said, amounted to an “overnight abrogation of the democratic rights and freedoms guaranteed to the people of the State... upon its accession”.

Lone and Masoodi have also said that the Constitution does not allow downgrading of the state to an UT.

A separate petition, filed by Radha Kumar, a former member of the Home Ministry’s Group of Interlocutors for J&K, and others, contends that the amendments “strike at the heart of the principles on

which the State of J&K integrated into India... especially as they had no affirmation/sanction from the people of J&K (which) is a constitutional imperative...”.

Petitions have also been filed by former IAS officer Shah Faesal, activist Shehla Rashid, and advocates Shakir Shahab, M L Sharma, Vineet Dhandia, and others.

The Supreme Court is also seized of a bunch of related petitions challenging the detentions and “communication blackout” in J&K in the wake of the Centre’s August 5 decision.

Hearing them on September 16, the court had asked the J&K administration to “ensure that normal life is restored in Kashmir... keeping in mind national interest”, even as it had seen “formidable reasons” behind the government’s move to enforce the restrictions.

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रान्समिशन कार्पोरेशन लि. निविदा

विस्तारिकरण सूचना प्रशासनिक कार्यों से ई-निविदा संख्या टी-123/19-20 दिनांक 05.10.2019 तक विस्तारित की जाती है। हस्ता./अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत परीक्षण मंडल उ.प्र.पा.ट्रा.का.लि., 400 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र, पाली, ग्रेटर नोएडा। “राष्ट्र हित में ऊर्जा बचाएँ”। कृपया वेब साइट etender.up.nic.in पर सभी सूचना, अन्य संशोधन/विस्तार हेतु निविदा खुलने की तिथि तक लॉग ऑन करें। पत्रांक 1779 वि.पा.मं./प्र.अ./T-123/2019-20 दिनांक:- 28.09.2019

Uttarakhand Transport Corporation, H.Q.
1, Raj Vihar, Chakrata Road, Dehradun

No 7559/H.Q./Tech/E-Tender/Electric bus/2019 Date: 28.09.2019

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited, from well reputed manufacturers/Joint Venture for the operation and maintenance of fully built pure electric buses on Gross Cost Contract basis under FAME-II scheme as per following schedules:-

1- Last date of downloading tender form- 22.10.2019 Up to 13.00 Hrs

2- Pre bid meeting date- 11.10.2019 at 11.00 Hrs

3- Last Date for Online submission of tender form- 22.10.2019 Up to 14.00 Hrs.

4-Tender Opening date (Technical bid)- 22.10.2019 at 15.00 Hrs

The tender document are available online on <http://uktenders.gov.in> the bidder can download the documents from above website. The tender can be submitted along with the cost of tender in the form of DD in favour of Managing Director Uttarakhand Transport Corporation Dehradun.

General Manager (Tech),
E-mail-utc.gmtech@gmail.com



23

SPORTSLINE

An alleged role in IPL spot-fixing landed him in Tihar jail, and music rescued him from the mental prison of suicidal thoughts. With the life ban now set aside, and a web-series and autobiography in the works, S Sreesanth is focused on acting, politics... and a final crack at cricket. SRIRAM VEERA speaks with the bowler.

PRISONER

OF HIS PAST

HANDS ON your heart, you didn't do anything wrong? You weren't involved in fixing? At one point in our conversation, three days after the ombudsman of the Indian cricket board passed an order that he can play representative cricket from next September and a few months after Supreme Court had set aside his life ban for his alleged role in spot fixing in the Indian Premier League, Sreesanth is asked that direct question.

"I swear on my kids, I swear on my dad, who is ill but surviving for the last five-and-half years just to watch a match, I swear on my mom, who had her left leg amputated just one-and-half months back and who hasn't given up hope of watching me in a match — I haven't done it (spot-fixed in a game). I will never do it even for 100 crores."

His life had toppled out of control in 2013 and the lowest point of police interrogation came, he says, when he found himself lying down in the "bloody washroom of the Delhi cell". "People are looking down at you as if you would run away. I was lying there, trying to figure out what wrong I had done. Mentally, physically, emotionally drained. No sleep. I might have nodded off at 2 in the night, they would wake me up at 2.30 and ask question. Why did you do this, who is this guy, what is happening there..."

More trouble awaited at Tihar jail, where he was subsequently interred for 26 days. "There was this guy — murderer and rapist — who used to abuse me a lot. Every other word was an abuse. I was scared of him. I soon realised, I had to do something about it. I started to speak to him and I remember after a few days he said, *"Tere me to dum nahi, teri to fatt gayi... Saath rehna, tero ko karne ke liye bohot log hai.* (You are scared. Stay with me. Lots of people want to target you)."

A 500-watt bulb burnt through the night in his cell. It would haunt him in the years to come when he slipped into "depression and it took me a lot of time, and therapy to recover." Finally, it was music, as suggested by his musician brother-in-law, he says, that liberated him from his mental jail.

The depression lasted for six-and-half months, he says after he came out of Tihar jail. "I would break down for no reason. I used to get seizures for 6-7 weeks. I couldn't sleep as in Tihar they had that bulb that they wouldn't switch off."

Suicidal thoughts tailed him. "I came close, very close, to death four-five times but I pulled myself back. Some power, even bigger than god, like something that made god maybe," he says. "I have grown a lot more philosophical in the last six years." Therapists did their bit. "No shame in saying that but more than anything I think it was music that got me out of it."

The overriding thought in Tihar wasn't "why me?" but "how did this happen". "I kept on saying to myself there is a reason for all this. Karma. Did I do something as a kid? Or in my relationships. My grandmother would say never be bad to women, it will backfire. Karma. But I couldn't get any answer."

In the jail, he wrote a song about the light-bulb, titled 'Roshni' and later, set it to a tune. One on Shiva — "I am a *Shiv-Bhakt*" — which will soon be sung by his brother-in-law. "Lyrics poured out of me, and I would sit in a small studio room, creating music."

All of a sudden, the dark sombre mood evaporates from the café at a Juhu hotel. In a blink, he starts talking about how many top stars in Southern film world want his one particular composition for their own movies. Titled, *"Anbule azhagey* (Dear beautiful). "I have refused so far. They all want it." What's he holding it for? "Well, I didn't want to talk about it but it's for a web-series on my life. I am working something with Mahesh Bhatt sir and Pooja (Bhatt) di. My life story can't be fit in a biopic, it will be across seasons, don't you think?"

Sreesanth is an actor these days. "Didn't many of my team-mates always use to say that I was an actor?!" he laughs. "I think you need to be a good actor to get by in life. I am not talking about faking it. I mean not showing your vulnerability. I hate sympathy; I don't want it in my life anymore. I don't want to show it to anyone that I am down. That's what I mean by acting." His father showed him a glimpse of it on the day he came back from Tihar. "My mother broke down, my father, who is more emotional actually, didn't. He kept smiling. I realised he didn't want to show me how bad he had felt. I also didn't cry. I went back to my room and I broke down."

“Please explain in the same IPL season, when RP Sigh bowled such a big no ball, not once but twice (in the same match, once to MS Dhoni and another to Ravindra Jadeja that led to a last-ball win for Chennai Super Kings), did they say anything about it?”

“Before every ball (Karthik) was doing these elaborate breathing rituals. I told him, “Machan, very lucky da, you are in Tamil Nadu na... Srinivasan is backing you, so you doing all this”. That evening Champions Trophy probables was announced and I wasn't in.”

that he was doing this behind the back. Anyways, he (Sreesanth) gives runs (my economy rate is 8 or something in IPL), and in some case, if the runs don't match, I would say it didn't work out and make runs on other times. Let any bookie claim that he has been fixing with Sreesanth. Let one person say that...

Since then, he has cut out "characters like him from my life". "Why would I speak to him? I knew this road was full of gutter. Why would I take my Ferrari there no. I just cut out him and people like him. If he wasn't caught, years later he would have probably boasted how *ch***a banaya Sree ko.*"

The fix was for 14 runs and he gave away 13. But just five runs had come from the first four balls.

"That over to Adam Gilchrist, I gave five runs from four balls. Even a blind man following cricket commentary will wonder how he is going to give so many runs in the next two balls! Then they said I tried to bowl a wide and no ball in the next two balls. One media even showed a video from different match to suggest that the last ball was a no ball. A footage from a different game, how low they can fall?"

In another transcript, this time between

Jiju Janardhanan and another bookie Amit Singh after the May 9th match, Amit complains that they were "minus" because only 13 runs came and not 14.

"Minus mein hai yaar, *aapko pehle saaf bataya tha ki 12 bhi minus hai, 14 plus hi hogi toh, faayda hai. Yeh bata, tune Sree ko bataya tha kya?* (It's in minus, I had told you clearly that even if it's 12, it would be minus. Only 14 plus would be profitable. Did you tell Sreesanth?)" Amit says. Jiju replies, *"Sab kuch bataya tha as fixed.* Everything was clear, yaar. (Told him everything as fixed."

And then Amit asks, "Why didn't he bowl a wide ball?" Jiju says Sreesanth tried it last ball. *"Usne last mein daala, yaar usne wide ball par chowka maara* (He tried last ball but Gilchrist hit it for a four)".

You nudge Sreesanth about the towel. "You should ask Kumar Dharmasena (the umpire) about it. I asked him should I keep the towel this over or the next. It was more about superstitious reasons. There are colleagues who I hear have said that I got that towel from the hotel! Everybody knows that I have towel, or teeka (on forehead) now and then.

Humour springs up even here. "Luckily, thanks to lord Guruvayurappan, I didn't bowl

leg-spin in those two balls. Which is something I would have done as it was a dry wicket but luckily, I didn't. What would have they said if I had?"

Then comes the counterattack. "Please explain in the same IPL, when RP Sigh bowled such a big no ball, not once but twice (in the same match, once to Dhoni and one to Ravindra Jadeja that led to a last-ball win for Chennai Super Kings), did they say anything about it?"

He brings up the episode when he was grilled by the Delhi police in "box-like rooms with an officer and two commandos standing, trying to scare me into a confession". They showed him pictures and other evidence about several other cricketers who were suspected of being involved in fixing. Like those infamous 13 names in that sealed envelope to the apex court. "20-21 names in fact. They showed photo, video, of players and I was thinking 'no way, not him, he won't do it'.

"To those players who did it (fixing) and are still playing, having a smiley face, I just want to say, I am not you guys. I can take names easily with proof (as I was shown by police) but I won't do it. That's not me. It has taken seven years for me to get back my life.

Sreesanth's desperation was because he wanted to play to fix.

"Mr Upton, touch your heart and touch your kid's heads, did I ever abuse you either during India team or in IPL? I want to ask the legend Rahul Dravid, someone whom I respect and love, when did I ever fight with him? When did I abuse with him the way Upton said in his book?"

"I requested Upton many times to let me play that game — only because of my history with CSK and because I wanted to defeat them. He made it out differently that I wanted to play as if for fixing. Everybody knows how much I hate CSK, I don't have to say. People might say because of MS Dhoni or N Srinivasan sir or whatever but that's not the truth; I just hate the yellow colour. I hated Australia for the same reason. Most importantly, I have done extremely well against CSK that's why I wanted to play."

"That allegation that I abused the two was the most disappointing. That was bigger than torture by police. That thing still hurts. Other players would talk about Upton, "Yeh kaun hai bey, Kirsten sab kuch karte hain (who is this guy, Kirsten does everything). ' Have I ever behaved like that with him? I really hope your book sells more because you seem so desperate."

In fact, not just that IPL but that year hadn't started well. That February, he was banned for two matches after an incident with Dinesh Karthik in a Subbiah Pillai Trophy match against Tamil Nadu before the Champions Trophy probables was announced.

"Karthik had complained that I was abusing N Srinivasan. DK was trying out some new technique by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. Before facing every ball, he was doing these elaborate breathing rituals and taking a lot of time. I was at point, and told him, "Machan, very lucky da, you are in Tamil Nadu na... and he went, 'ssshhhh. I said, 'what, ready avudua dei (get ready). Next time again same. So much time was being wasted and umpires weren't doing anything. Next time I said, "Srinivasan is backing you, so you doing all this. Sachin Baby (the captain then) might get banned for slow over rate. I bowled leg-spin and got him out and as he walked out, I told him, 'Breathe, breathe and go!' We won. Why would I abuse Srinivasan sir, we both go a long way and connect through (our devotion) for Guruvayurappan. In 2009, when I was making my comeback, cricketers weren't allowed to play in county but sir sent me. And I would abuse him?"

"That evening Champions Trophy probables was announced and I wasn't there. Only reason was that complaint. DK, if you are reading this, what you did to me and my family is unforgivable. Next year Kerala plays Tamil Nadu, you know what's going to happen, god bless you."

All this and more will be featured in Sreesanth's autobiography, set to release next year he says. "Working with four publishers around the world".

In July, 2015, Delhi's Patiala House court dropped all charges, including the MCOCA against Sreesanth and other cricketers. The Supreme Court had earlier in the year set aside the life ban imposed by BCCI disciplinary committee and asked the Board ombudsman to reconsider the quantum of punishment. The ombudsman Justice DK Jain reduced the life ban to seven years in August this year, and Sreesanth will be able to return to cricket in September next year.

His future plans aren't modest by any stretch. In 2024, he says he will stand in the elections as BJP candidate and defeat Congress's Shashi Tharoor. "I am a huge fan of his as a person who had stood by me but I will defeat him in the elections in Thiruvananthapuram," he says with a smile. "No doubt about it." The future looks good — a web-series about his life, an autobiography, couple of movies that he is about to wrap up shooting and one final crack at cricket. "My mother and father will be there, my wife has been visualising the moment for a long time, so will be my children."

"Sometimes I think it's good all this has happened as I would have probably retired and settled in Dubai or UK. There would not have been any major self-transformation. Now I am in control and so many good things are happening — from music, movies, books, web-series, cricket, and politics. I was fortunate not just my wife (when I was in jail, she slept in kitchen as she didn't want AC or any comforts), and parents but others supported me. Like the film fraternity. Thank god now, my four-year old daughter and two-year old son can watch me play cricket next year. I don't want them to google my name and see all this fixing. She can see me playing with her own eyes next year."

"In the last few years, I can proudly say that I can now control my subconscious mind and program it positively. Anyone who has lost in business, or very down in life and having dark thoughts, I want to tell them never ever doubt your ability. I want them to think if Sreesanth can come back from hell, then I also can. I want to be an inspiration."

He then whips out his phone, shows a few recent bowling videos (a few stunning leg-cutters and in-swingers make one gasp, and he laughs) and then flicks to a Tik-Tok video, where he is mouthing a movie-line from the Tamil actor Surya. *"Ethir parkaleley? Naan thirumbi varuvemu, ethir parkaleley?* (Didn't expect, right? You didn't expect I would come back, right?).

Now Kapil & his CAC colleagues get conflict notices

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE BOARD of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) ethics officer DK Jain has issued notices to three former Indian players Kapil Dev, Anshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy with regard to conflict of interest charges made by Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association (MPCA) life member Sanjeev Gupta.

The three former players were part of an ad-hoc Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), which was tasked with appointing the head coach of the men's cricket team. The CAC picked Ravi Shastri — whose term had expired but had applied again — as coach for the next two years.

In a notice, Jain has asked the trio to submit their response by October 10. Jain sent the notices after Gupta's allegations that Kapil, Gaekwad and Rangaswamy violated the BCCI constitution norms, which state that no individual can hold more than one post at a time.

"You may file your written response to the accompanying Complaint, supported by duly executed affidavit, on or before October 10, 2019, with the Office of the Ethics Officer, BCCI, Mumbai for further proceedings in the matter," notice reads.

Kapil and Rangaswamy are directors at the newly-formed Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA), an association for ex-cricketers funded by the BCCI. Gaekwad is part of the BCCI's member affiliation committee.

Kapil and Rangaswamy are directors at the newly formed Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA), an association for ex-cricketers funded by the BCCI. Gaekwad is part of the BCCI's member affiliation committee. Also, Kapil's company, Dev Musco, supplies floodlights to some Indian venues used for international cricket.

Also, Kapil's company, Dev Musco, supplies floodlights to some Indian venues used for international cricket.

The Kapil Dev-headed ad-hoc CAC was cleared by the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) to pick the next head coach of the Indian cricket team. The ad-hoc CAC gave 'no conflict' declaration that was okayed by the CoA. CoA chief Vinod Rai had clarified that the matter didn't go to the BCCI's ombudsman-cum-ethics officer.

"The matter hasn't gone to the ethics officer. First, the CoA has to declare whether there's conflict or no conflict. They will do whatever they have to do (appoint the head coach). In case, anybody has a grievance, he/she can go to the ethics officer," CoA chief Vinod Rai had told this paper.

However, one member of COA, Diana Edulji had raised an objection. "The issue was whether there was any conflict of interest. We examined it and we found that there was no conflict of interest. Kapil Dev's company is totally independent. That has nothing to do with the BCCI. With regards to the ICA, they were only in the working group to set it up. Now that it has been set up, we have converted them to directors so that they can register the association," Rai explained.

Beginner's duck

India's soon-to-be Test opener Rohit Sharma makes a two-ball 0 for Board President's XI against South Africa



Opening alongside Mayank Agarwal, Rohit Sharma edged the second ball that he faced to the wicket-keeper. Vernon Philander took the wicket. *File*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SEPTEMBER 28

THE BIGGEST attraction of the tour game between the Indian Board President's XI and South Africans was Rohit Sharma. Opening in red-ball cricket is an uncharted territory for him, but the selectors and the Indian team management have picked him to open the innings in the upcoming three-Test series against South Africa.

From that perspective, this game was an audition for the Mumbai batsman. He lasted just two balls and scored a duck after the visitors declared at 279/6 at Vizianagaram on Saturday. An edge to a Vernon Philander delivery to 'keeper Heinrich Klaasen brought about Rohit's dismissal. A predominantly back foot player, he has had this tendency of not getting his front foot to the ball, full and moving, at the start of his innings. Then again, a two-ball stay in the middle in a warm-up fixture hardly reduces Rohit's prospects of opening the innings in the first Test that commences from October 2. Some runs under his belt ahead of the Test, though, would have helped him get into the groove.

The three-day tour game ended in a draw today. The Indian Board President's XI scored 265/8, replying to the South Africans' 279/6 declared. Wicketkeeper-batsman KS Bharat scored 71 off just 57 balls, hitting seven fours and five sixes, after Priyank Panchal (60) and Siddhesh Lad (52 not out) got to half-cen-

turies. Mayank Agarwal, who will open with Rohit in Tests, scored 39. For the Saffers, left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj took 3/35. Earlier, opener Aiden Markram had scored 100 and middle-order batsman Temba Bavuma made 87 not out.

Coming back to Rohit, during a recent interview with this paper, chief selector MSK Prasad had spoken about the thought process behind considering the batsman as a Test opener. "We felt that Rohit was outstanding in white-ball cricket and also he has done reasonably well in the middle-order in Australia. We feel that he has the ability and skills to excel as an opening batsman in the longer format also. Hence, we have given him the opportunity and we wish and hope that he will seize the opportunity," Prasad told this paper.

Rohit, a legend in white-ball cricket, has somehow failed to replicate his limited-overs success in the long-form. In six years after making his debut in 2013, the 32-year-old has played 27 Tests, scoring 1,585 runs at 39.62. Following a hugely successful World Cup, he sat out in the two-match Test series in the West Indies, as Hanuma Vihari was preferred over him in the middle-order. Vihari scored a century and two half-centuries in two Tests, cementing his place at No. 6 in the process.

With the middle-order occupied, opening was the only slot available to give Rohit red-ball game time. KL Rahul's poor form and his subsequent omission from the Test squad created the vacancy. At the turn of the century, Sourav Ganguly's India had converted

Virender Sehwag to an opener, which augured great for the team. Sehwag redefined Test match opening.

Asked, if Rohit needs to take a leaf out of Sehwag's book to be a successful Test opener, Prasad said: "Rohit himself has an identity which he created for himself with his stellar performances in white-ball cricket, batting at the top of the order. I wish that he should transform the same performances in red-ball cricket too, with the opportunity he has been given to bat at the top."

So it's pretty clear that both the chief selector and team management are backing Rohit to be a success as an opener. "In West Indies also it's actually hard to see a player like Rohit sitting outside. He works so hard, he has been with the Test team for long now, so if he gets an opportunity I will be really happy for him and I'm sure he will do well," Indian Test team vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane said the other day.

A seamless transition from a middle-order batsman to opening the innings in Test cricket, however, is a hard act. Even a player of VVS Laxman's class had struggled, when he was forced to open the innings between 1996-98. He never felt comfortable. Then again, Laxman didn't have the experience at that moment in time, which Rohit has as a Test player.

The biggest advantage that Rohit has is his experience, which I didn't have. I opened in Test cricket only after playing four Test matches. Rohit has played 12 years of international cricket. So he has the maturity and the experience and he is also in good form,"

Laxman told former India cricketer Deep Dasgupta, during an interview on latter's YouTube channel 'Deep Point'.

The touch artist from Hyderabad didn't make a serious impression as an opener and he put it down to a "mistake" he made. "I believe the mistake that I made while opening the innings was to change my mindset, which got me a lot of success as a middle-order batsman, whether it's batting (at) No. 3 or No. 4," Laxman said, adding: "I also tried to change my technique. As a middle-order batsman, I was always having a front press and then go towards the ball, whereas talking to seniors and coaches, I went to back and across, as I had to face Curtly Ambrose ('97-away series), who would generate steep bounce from length. This huge change in approach affected my batting and I hope Rohit shouldn't do it."

Little wonder then that Laxman advised Rohit to stick to his natural game. "If you tweak your natural game too much, then you will not get the results as your mind gets cluttered and you tend to lose your rhythm. I can admit that my flow was affected when I opened. Rohit is a rhythm-based player and if his touch gets affected, then it will be difficult."

BRIEF SCORES: South Africa 279/6 decl (Aiden Markram 100 ret'd out, Temba Bavuma 87 no, Vernon Philander 48, Dharmendra Jadeja 3/66) vs Board President's XI 265/8 (Rohit Sharma 0, KS Bharat 71 off 57 balls, Priyank Panchal 60 off 77 balls, Siddesh Lad 52 no off 89 balls, Vernon Philander 2/27, Keshav Maharaj 3/35).

GCA elects all officials, except Shah's successor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 28

THE GUJARAT Cricket Association (GCA) elections were held on Saturday, but the post of president, which was held by Home Minister Amit Shah, was left vacant. Shah was ineligible to contest because the Lodha Committee recommendations barred those holding a public office from being an office bearer of a state association or the Board of Control for Cricket in India. Shah became the GCA president in 2014 after the then chief minister Narendra Modi, who had held the post, resigned after he became the prime minister of the country.

Shah's son, Jayesh Shah, who was the secretary of the GCA, did not contest for any post.

Among the four new faces in the GCA were Dhanraj Nathwani, son of the vice-president in the previous term Parimal Nathwani. Dhanraj became the vice-president of the GCA.

Parimal is a Rajya Sabha MP from Jharkhand and had stepped down because of the Lodha Committee recommendations. Dhanraj is also the president of Gujarat State Football Association.

"As per Lodha Committee norms, I have stepped down as vice president of Gujarat Cricket Association. I thank @PMOIndia @narendramodi, @HMOIndia @AmitShah, office bearers of GCA and media for their support. Glad to be part of team setting up world's largest cricket stadium in A'bad," tweeted Parimal Nathwani earlier in the day. Parimal could not be reached for his comment.

The other new office bearers who were elected at GCA were Ashok Brahmabhatt, the secretary, Anil Patel, joint secretary and Bharat Zaveri, the treasurer.

Binny is KSCA's new boss

Former India all-rounder Roger Binny was elected as president of the Karnataka State Cricket Association. Former umpire Shavir Tarapore was elected as joint secretary. The vice-president is J Abhiram, while Vinay Mruthyunjaya (treasurer) and Santosh Menon (secretary) were the other office bearers.

Mumbai lose; Rahul slams ton

Bangalore: Defending champions Mumbai were in for a shock as minnows Chhattisgarh defeated them by 5 wickets in a high-scoring thriller in the Vijay Hazare trophy here on Saturday. At the Alur Cricket Stadium III, put into bat, Mumbai posted a descent 317/5 in their allotted 50 overs, but Chhattisgarh chased the target with one ball to spare and rode on a gritty 117 not out by middle-order batsman Amandeep Khare. At the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here, Karnataka defeated Kerala by 60 runs, with K L Rahul slamming a stroke-filed 131 off 122 balls.

In a Group C match in Jaipur, all-rounder Vijay Shankar marked his return from injury with a superb knock of 91 (88 balls, 6 fours, 1 six) to power Tamil Nadu to a seven-wicket win over Bihar. Tamil Nadu made 218 for 3 in 46.5 overs in reply to Bihar's 217 for 7 in 50 overs to notch up a third straight victory.

In Dehradun, Yashpal Singh and Iqbal Abdulla shared seven wickets between them as Sikkim bundled out Manipur for 120 in their abandoned Plate Group match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy One-Day cricket tournament here on Saturday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lightning strikes twice

Japan, who upset South Africa in 2015, shake up the Rugby World Cup with a 19-12 win over World No.2 Ireland

HOSTS JAPAN pulled off one of the biggest upsets in Rugby World Cup history as they beat world number two-ranked Ireland 19-12 in Shizuoka. Japan had announced their arrival on the world stage four years ago with a win over the Springboks in Brighton. But this result pushes them sensationally closer to heading into rugby's stratospheric Tier 1.

Having lost each of their last seven matches to Ireland by an average of near 30 points, this was Japan's first ever victory against the World No 2 team. Ireland tend to make heavy weather of World Cups and have an additional scourge in notoriously going down in their last four pool stage defeats at the Rugby World Cup against the host nation.

Japan showed what headlining a home World Cup meant with a leadup that's seen them win five of their last six matches at the World Cup, after having won just one of their initial 24 matches at the tournament. However this was Ireland's first loss to a non-Tier One nation, having won each of their previous 15 times.

No side has lost a match at the Rugby World Cup and gone on to lift the Webb Ellis Cup, which means there will be renewed doubts about the slide this last year of Joe Schmidt's side.

The story, though, belonged to Japan. Here's what they did right:

RELENTLESS ATTACKS: Ireland had led at half time with two tries from Ringrose and Kearney, though three Yu Tamura penalties kept the game to within one point. When

Kenki Fukuoka who came in as replacement leapt over in the corner in the 59th minute, the Brave Blossoms went in front for the first time. The Japanese had been relentless in their attacking intent from the very start, playing their fast-paced, free-floating rugby undeterred by one of rugby's stodgiest defences which was pulled this way and that. Ireland's two tries were meant to quell the home challenge, but the crowd only gained in decibel with each territorial progress and turnover.

INSPIRED CHANGE: It's not like the Irish were playing badly, just that Japan hit the high notes unceasingly. Japan's legendary captain Michael Leitch, whose benching by coach JJ had been cacophonously controversial, came on in the 31st minute. He led a forward press starting live a wave towards the end of the first half and Ireland were left manically defending and pushing back frantically at the oncoming waves in the energy-sapping afternoon heat. "The familiar signs that tend to crop up when Ireland are not functioning began to re-appear — missed line-outs, dropped catches and a knock-on after winning a scrum inside their own 22 as the pressure continued to build," according to the BBC.

COSTLY MISTAKE: Promising Jack Carty, starting on only his second game had been poised in his kicking aiding the two tries until it all crumbled for the Irish. But he gave Japan the first sniff of blood when kicking a restart dead before the hitherto in-



Japanese players celebrate their 19-12 win over Ireland in a Pool A Rugby World Cup match on Saturday. *Reuters*

domitable Irish pack, which turned over on their own scrum.

FUKUOKA SEALS IT: The hero was Japanese winger Kenki Fukuoka who ran in the try that sealed Japan's famous victory, much like their breathless 34-32 win over Springboks. "Fukuoka was not even meant to be in the match squad, but stepped onto the bench when William Tupou picked up a late injury and Lomano Lemeki started. The 27-year-old stormed in at the corner to send the Shizuoka Stadium Ecopa into delir-

ium though, and rip up the pre-written expectations for Pool A," said UK's Telegraph.

HOW THE TABLE LOOKS

Pool A was significant since it would decide who either of New Zealand or South Africa would face in quarters should all things go to plan in that pool. It was ripped to be a toss-up between Ireland and Scotland, before Japan raced ahead with two wins from two. The hosts would at-

tempt to reach the Last 8 for the first time though they will recall how three group wins weren't enough last time around. However the Brave Blossoms have exploded the group wide open now.

As former Ireland wing Shane Horgan told BBC: "This tournament needed a second-tier nation to beat a first-tier nation and this was no fluke - they thoroughly deserved it, [they] out-played Ireland. We have an absolute stonker for the last game of this group, Japan versus Scotland. The whole world will be watching, which is ex-

actly what you want at a World Cup."

REACTIONS: 'IT WAS SEISMIC'

"We are obviously ecstatic about the result. We've been preparing for three years so we felt like we had an advantage. You've just got to be careful before the game. You don't want to come across too arrogant and cocky. We obviously had a lot of belief in our gameplan and in what we wanted to do. We knew how good Ireland were and how strong they were."

— JAMIE JOSEPH
JAPAN COACH

"We played well in the first quarter, we got into a 12-3 lead and then stopped playing. We probably fell on the wrong side of the penalty count. Three or four of them were for offsidess that we felt were pretty tough. It just gave them the front foot and they didn't button off."

— JOE SCHMIDT
IRELAND COACH

"It was a seismic. Any young kids watching who want to see how to tackle properly should watch this Japan team."

— BEN RYAN
COACHED FUJI TO OLYMPIC SEVENS GOLD

Heat, humidity have final say

28 of 68 starters in women's marathon fail to finish as harsh weather takes its toll at Worlds

AP/REUTERS
DOHA, SEPTEMBER 28

THE 68 women who lined up for the marathon in a virtual steam bath off the bay fronting Doha's downtown were posed with one not-so-simple question when the clock struck midnight Saturday: How much are you willing to suffer? Suffer to win? Suffer for a medal? Suffer just to say you finished? On a night in which 28 of those runners didn't get to the finish line, ssssof Kenya had all the answers. She took the gold medal at world championships in 2 hours, 32 minutes, 43 seconds. It was the slowest winning time in three-and-a-half decades' worth of these events, but one that made absolute sense on this night. "It was not bad for me," Chepngetich said. For everyone else, miserable. The temperature when Chepngetich crossed the finish line first at 2:34 a.m. was 88 degrees (31 Celsius). The humidity was 77 percent. The heat index was 105 (40). The wind: none. "Those who win, they are heroes," Israel's Lonah Salpeter said. "Those who finish, I tell them they are strong. Even those who didn't finish, they're also strong. They tried their best." Small swaths of hard-core fans lined

the 7-kilometer loop and watched runner after runner fill towels and hats brimming with ice, then pick it out to drop it into their sweat-saturated tank tops and bottoms. They saw runners double-fisting electrolyte drinks, and running with drenched towels wrapped around their necks, and wringing cool water from sponges they plucked off tables that were scattered around the course. They saw ... suffering. "I didn't know what to expect," American Roberta Groner said after making it through her six laps of hell. "The goal was to finish and not hurt myself." No matter how they spin it, the IAAF's plan to run the race at night to beat the heat was something less than a success. As the federation's president, Sebastian Coe, paced near the finish line, his pink button-down polo completely sweated through, runner after runner buckled over, or tumbled to the ground, and had to be placed gingerly into golf carts, or wheelchairs, and transported off the course into the medical tent. Defending champion Rose Chelimo came in 63 seconds back of Chepngetich to take the silver medal, and Helalia Johannes won the bronze to become the first female from Namibia to win a medal at worlds.



Ruth Chepngetich finished the race in 2h 32m 43s to take the top spot while heat got the better of most runners. Reuters



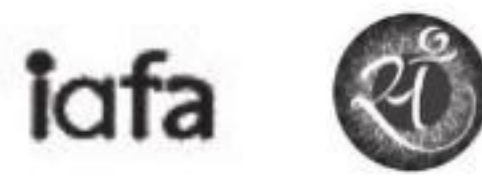


"I cannot say I enjoyed the event," Johannes said. Salpeter had been considered a contender. But a slip-up in grabbing a water bottle and a towel at around the 5-kilometer mark cost her precious time _ and energy _ and after racing hard, and in vain, to catch back up to the lead pack, she dropped out at the 20-mile mark. Groner, a 41-year-old mother from New Jersey, never adjusted to the time change from her home, and came out pretending like it was the middle of the afternoon. She took things slow and steady _ and finished sixth. Consider it a victory. And really, there were no losers on this night _ only those willing, or crazy enough to want to do this

on one of the toughest nights this sport has ever seen. Sviatlana Kudzelich of Belarus is a steeplechaser-turned-marathoner who, halfway through this midnight run, must have been wondering why she switched. She finished 32nd. But she finished. "A real accomplishment," she said. "I can't describe the joy." Neither could Spain's Marta Galimay. She raised both fists to the sky and acted like a winner when she crossed the line in 16th place.

Fraser-Pryce on fire Jamaica's Shelly Ann Fraser-Pryce clocked the top time ever in a heat of the women's 100 metres on Saturday as the world athletics championships got off to a blazing start for the second straight day. While temperatures reached 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) outside Khalifa Stadium, inside athletes competed in the air conditioned comfort of the futuristic venue where the thermometer hovered pleasantly in the mid-20s. It was certainly no sweat for Fraser-Pryce, her waist-length bright yellow hair flowing behind her, as she cruised home in 10.80 seconds, the fastest time ever in a women's 100m heat at the world championships not including the semi-finals.

India's mixed 4x400m team in Worlds final

THE INDIAN mixed 4x400m relay team qualifies for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics after reaching the finals in the World Championships. The quartet of Muhammed Anas, V K Vismaya, Jisna Mathew and Tom Nirmal Noah clocked 3 minutes 16.14 seconds to finish third in heat number 2 and book a berth in next year's Olympics. The top 3 in each of the two heats and the next two fastest qualify for the final of the World Championships to be held on Sunday. The finalists (top 8) in relay races in the World Championships are automatic qualifiers for the Tokyo Olympics. Meanwhile, sprinter Dutee Chand's World Championships campaign ended in disappointment as she crashed out in the first round while 400m hurdler M P Jabir made an exit in the semifinals.



The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

&

Indo-American Friendship Association

New Delhi

Shri Pranab Mukherjee

Hon'ble former President of India

has kindly consented to deliver a public lecture on:

Is Gandhian Path the Right Way Forward for the Conflict torn World Today?

to commemorate 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

On Monday 30th September, 2019 at 6.45 PM
At the auditorium, NMML, Teen Murti Bhawan
Teen Murti Marg, New Delhi - 110011

You are cordially invited to attend with your family and friends.

For More info, please visit: Website: <http://nehrumemorial.nic.in> or
Contact us on: ccs2nmml@gmail.com
For live webcast, please visit: www.facebook.com/Nehru-MemorialLibrary/;
www.youtube.com/user/nehrumemoriallibrary

All are Welcome

22:31	W	Pole Vault (Final)	01:50	W	100 m (Final)
22:35	M	200m (Heats)	(Mon)		
23:50	W	100m (Semis)	02:00	W	20 km Race
00:25	M	800m (Semis)	(Mon)		Walk Final

INDIA WATCH 01:05 (Mon) **MIXED 4X400 RELAY**

The hair is the sunshine. It's definitely a wonderful feeling to be here in Doha. Jamaica is hot. Doha is hot, so why not bring my sunshine? - FRASER-PRYCE, ON HER HAIR COLOUR

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III, DELHI
4TH FLOOR, SEVATI TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001.
Notice under Section 18(4) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules), 1993.
CA No. 285 of 2019 (DRT-III)
CANARA BANK, Applicant VERSUS RAJESH KALRA, Defendants
To: D-1, Mr. RAJESH KALRA S/o. Sh. Satpal Kalra B-16, Kawal Park Extension, Azad Pur Delhi-110033. Also at: 162-163, Transport Centre, Azadpur Mandi, Delhi-110033.
Also at: D2/2, First Floor, Model Town Ind. Delhi-110009.
Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way, therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal 31/10/2019 at 10.30 A.M.
Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 19th day of Sept., 2019.
By Order of the Tribunal
Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WIND ENERGY

(Formerly known as Centre for Wind Energy Technology)
An autonomous R&D institution under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India
Velachery - Tambaram Main Road, Palikaralanai, Chennai - 600 100.
URL : <http://niwe.res.in>

National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) is the technical arm of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India in the field of Wind Energy. This Institute is proposed to recruit the following post on Direct Recruitment Basis:

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Level of Pay	No. of posts
1	Junior Engineer	Level 6 of 7th CPC	1 Post (Reserved For OBC)

Further details regarding qualification, experience, age limit, other terms & conditions and the format of application are available in the website: <http://niwe.res.in>. The last date for receipt of completed applications is 28.10.2019.

Deputy Director General (F&A)



FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS - 2019



In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali / Chhath Puja Festivals, Railways have decided to run the following Festival Special Trains as per schedule given below:-

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency/ Day	Period	Accommodation	Stoppages
04401	Anand Vihar (T)	23:00	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	14:00	Mon, Thu	03.10.19 to 04.11.19	1st AC, AC 2 Tier & AC 3 Tier	Ghaziabad, Meerut City, Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur, Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Ambala Cantt, Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt, Pathankot Cantt, Jammu Tawi and Udhampur stations.
04402	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:30	Anand Vihar (T)	14:20	Tue, Fri	04.10.19 to 05.11.19	AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Rampura Phul, Bamala, Dhuri, Nabha, Patiala, Rajpura, Ambala Cantt., Jagadhri, Saharanpur, Laksar, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow and Sultanpur stations.
04998	Bathinda	20:50	Varanasi	19:20	Sun	06.10.19 to 03.11.19	1st AC, AC 2 Tier & AC 3 Tier	Anand Vihar (T), Ghaziabad, Moradabad and Bareilly stations.
04997	Varanasi	21:20	Bathinda	19:15	Mon	07.10.19 to 04.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Roop Nagar, Chandigarh, Ambala Cantt, Jagadhri, Saharanpur, Moradabad and Bareilly stations.
04420	H. Nizamuddin	20:50	Lucknow	06:30	Mon	07.10.19 to 04.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Rampura Phul, Bamala, Dhuri, Nabha, Patiala, Rajpura, Ambala Cantt., Jagadhri, Saharanpur, Laksar, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow and Sultanpur stations.
04419	Lucknow	19:05	H. Nizamuddin	05:30	Thu	10.10.19 to 07.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Mathura, Kota, Ratlam, Baroda, Surat, Vapi, Vasai Road, Kalyan and Lonawala stations.
04422	Anand Vihar (T)	21:05	Lucknow	06:30	Wed	09.10.19 to 06.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Allahabad, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Bhabua Road, Sasaram and Dehri On Son stations.
04421	Lucknow	19:05	Anand Vihar (T)	05:15	Tue	08.10.19 to 05.11.19	AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Panipat, Ambala Cantt., Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi and Udhampur stations.
04502	Nangaldam	23:45	Lucknow	14:00	Mon	07.10.19 to 04.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Mathura, Kota, Ratlam, Baroda, Surat, Vapi, Vasai Road, Kalyan and Lonawala stations.
04501	Lucknow	21:30	Nangaldam	13:00	Tue	08.10.19 to 05.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Allahabad, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Bhabua Road, Sasaram and Dehri On Son stations.
04612	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:30	Varanasi	03:05	Sun	06.10.19 to 03.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Mathura, Kota, Ratlam, Baroda, Surat, Vapi, Vasai Road, Kalyan and Lonawala stations.
04611	Varanasi	06:00	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	13:15	Tue	08.10.19 to 05.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Mathura, Kota, Ratlam, Baroda, Surat, Vapi, Vasai Road, Kalyan and Lonawala stations.
04409	Delhi Jn.	18:25	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	09:05	Tue, Fri, Sun	01.10.19 to 05.11.19	AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Panipat, Ambala Cantt., Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi and Udhampur stations.
04410	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	18:25	Delhi Jn.	03:00	Wed, Sat, Mon	02.10.19 to 06.11.19	AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Panipat, Ambala Cantt., Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi and Udhampur stations.
04074	New Delhi	15:30	Varanasi	07:00		23, 26, 29.10 & 01.11.19	Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow and Sultanpur stations.
04073	Varanasi	09:50	New Delhi	01:45		24, 27, 30.10 & 02.11.19	Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow and Sultanpur stations.
04924	Chandigarh	23:20	Gorakhpur	17:30	Thu	03.10.19 to 31.10.19	1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Ambala Cantt., Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda and Basti stations.
04923	Gorakhpur	22:10	Chandigarh	14:25	Fri	04.10.19 to 01.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda and Basti stations.
04046	Anand Vihar (T)	23:35	Gorakhpur	13:35		26.10.19 & 02.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda and Basti stations.
04045	Gorakhpur	17:25	Anand Vihar (T)	07:15		27.10.19 & 03.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda and Basti stations.
04418	H. Nizamuddin	21:35	Pune	21:25	Tue	01.10.19 to 05.11.19	1st AC, AC 2 Tier & AC 3 Tier	Mathura, Kota, Ratlam, Baroda, Surat, Vapi, Vasai Road, Kalyan and Lonawala stations.
04417	Pune	05:15	H. Nizamuddin	05:35	Thu	03.10.19 to 07.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Allahabad, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Bhabua Road, Sasaram and Dehri On Son stations.
04044	Anand Vihar (T)	00:10	Gaya Jn.	20:20		27.10.19 & 03.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Allahabad, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Bhabua Road, Sasaram and Dehri On Son stations.
04043	Gaya Jn.	23:20	Anand Vihar (T)	17:05		27.10.19 & 03.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Allahabad, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Bhabua Road, Sasaram and Dehri On Son stations.
04022	Anand Vihar (T)	00:10	Patna	17:45		26.10.19 & 02.11.19	AC 3 Tier	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Allahabad, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Buxar and Ara stations.
04021	Patna	20:30	Anand Vihar (T)	14:10		26.10.19 & 02.11.19	AC 3 Tier	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Allahabad, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Buxar and Ara stations.
04030	Delhi Jn.	13:45	Muzaffarpur Jn.	13:00	Wed, Sat	02.10.19 to 02.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow (NR), Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Kapltangani, Padrauna, Tamkuhi Road, Thawe, Siwan, Chhapra, Sonpur and Jhansi stations.
04029	Muzaffarpur Jn.	14:15	Delhi Jn.	14:00	Thu, Sun	03.10.19 to 03.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Chandauli Jn, Bareilly Cantt, Sitapur, Gonda Jn, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn, Chhapra, Sonpur Jn, Hajipur Jn, Shahpur Patoree, Barauni Jn, Begusarai, Khagaria Jn., Nalgachia, Kathar Jn, Purnea, Aranyia Court and Aranyia stations.
04010	Anand Vihar (T)	23:45	Jogbani	05:20	Tue	01.10.19 to 05.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Cantt., Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar and Siwan Jn stations.
04009	Jogbani	09:00	Anand Vihar (T)	16:05	Thu	03.10.19 to 07.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Cantt., Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar and Siwan Jn stations.
04038	Delhi Jn.	20:50	Chhapra	15:30	Sat, Tue	19.10.19 to 05.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Cantt., Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar and Siwan Jn stations.
04037	Chhapra	23:30	Delhi Jn.	18:15	Sun, Wed	20.10.19 to 06.11.19	AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Sultanpur, Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Bhabua Road, Sasaram and Dehri On Son stations.
04098	Anand Vihar (T)	00:30	Gaya Jn.	22:30		26.10.19 & 01.11.19	AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Sultanpur, Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Bhabua Road, Sasaram and Dehri On Son stations.
04097	Gaya Jn.	17:15	Anand Vihar (T)	13:00		28.10.19 & 03.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Mathura Jn., Delhi Safdarjung, Ambala Cantt. and Ludhiana stations.
04193	Agra Cantt.	10:40	Jammu Tawi	01:25	Fri	08.11.19 to 13.12.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Mathura Jn., Delhi Safdarjung, Ambala Cantt. and Ludhiana stations.
04194	Jammu Tawi	05:30	Agra Cantt.	21:00	Sat	09.11.19 to 14.12.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Mathura Jn., Delhi Safdarjung, Ambala Cantt. and Ludhiana stations.
82107	Mumbai (CSMT)	14:10	Lucknow (Suvidha)	13:15	Tue	01.10.19 to 05.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Dadar, Kalyan, Igatpuri, Nasik Road, Bhusaval, Itarsi, Bhopal, Jhansi, Orai and Kanpur Central stations.
01020	Lucknow	15:00	Mumbai (CSMT)	17:35	Wed	02.10.19 to 06.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Ahmednagar, Belapur, Manmad, Bhusaval, Itarsi, Bhopal, Bina, Jhansi, Orai, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda and Basti stations.
81453	Pune	21:30	Gorakhpur (Suvidha)	08:30	Mon	21.10.19 to 04.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Pilkhani, Sarsawa, Kalanaur, Jagadhri, Jagadhri Workshop, Darazpur, Mustafabad, Barara, Tandwal, Kesri and Dukheri stations.
01454	Gorakhpur	10:45	Pune	21:00	Wed	23.10.19 to 06.11.19	General	Pilkhani, Sarsawa, Kalanaur, Jagadhri, Jagadhri Workshop, Darazpur, Mustafabad, Barara, Tandwal, Kesri and Dukheri stations.
04921	Saharanpur	04:45	Ambala Cantt	06:30	Daily	01.10.19 to 15.11.19	General	Pilkhani, Sarsawa, Kalanaur, Jagadhri, Jagadhri Workshop, Darazpur, Mustafabad, Barara, Tandwal, Kesri and Dukheri stations.
04922	Ambala Cantt	20:40	Saharanpur	22:40	Daily	01.10.19 to 15.11.19	General	Pilkhani, Sarsawa, Kalanaur, Jagadhri, Jagadhri Workshop, Darazpur, Mustafabad, Barara, Tandwal, Kesri and Dukheri stations.
05101	Chhapra	16:00	Delhi Jn.	12:40	Sun	06.10.19 to 10.11.19	General	Ballia, Mau, Muhammadabad, Azamgarh, Khorasan Road, Shahganj, Faizabad, Barabanki, Lucknow (NR), Bareilly and Moradabad stations.
05102	Delhi Jn.	15:05	Chhapra	10:55	Mon	07.10.19 to 11.11.19	General	Ballia, Mau, Muhammadabad, Azamgarh, Khorasan Road, Shahganj, Faizabad, Barabanki, Lucknow (NR), Bareilly and Moradabad stations.

Beware of Touts Always buy your tickets from an authorised railway counters or authorised rail travel agents only.


For detail related to stoppages of trains etc. passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139, nearest Railway Station or visit Railway's website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.



NORTHERN RAILWAY

Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



KITTUR RANI CHANNAMMA RESIDENTIAL SAINIK SCHOOL

FOR GIRLS, KITTUR - 591 115, KARNATAKA (INDIA) Std VI-XII
[Member IPSC, Affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education New Delhi]
School Code No. 45438, Affiliation No. 830488

Ph No.08288-234608, 234605, Cell : 8971050552, 9902449517 E-mail : kittursainikschool@gmail.com, bskademanikrcrsg@gmail.com, Website : www.kittursainikschool.org

“Preparing Responsible and Dedicated Citizens of Tomorrow”

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

ALL INDIA ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FOR ADMISSION

To Class VI - Academic Year 2020-2021

Aim : Kittur Rani Channamma Residential Sainik School for Girls is being run on the lines of Sainik [Military] School with the primary aim of empowering the Nation with enlightened, confident women of 21st century.

Curriculum : 10+2 System of CBSE [Science Stream].

Applications are invited in the prescribed form for admission of **Girls** to Standard **VI** for the Academic Year 2020-2021. Admission is subject to qualifying in the All India Entrance Examination followed by Interview, Physical Fitness Test and Medical Examination conducted by the Institution.

EXAMINATION DATE : January 19th, 2020 (Sunday), Medium of Examination: Kannada OR English
EXAMINATION CENTRE : KITTUR, VIJAYAPUR, BENGALURU, KALABURAGI [all in Karnataka only]

AGE : Candidates born between June 1st, 2008 and May 31st, 2010 and having passed Standard Vth are eligible for admission.

FEE STRUCTURE : Approximately **Rs. 1,74,000/-** per annum [Inclusive of lodging, boarding, uniform and other deposit]. Kit and clothing items will be charged extra.

SCHOLARSHIP : Merit Scholarship as per Government of Karnataka Scholarship Scheme will be awarded only to the eligible girls of Karnataka Native / Domicile. **Girls who are awarded merit scholarship will be eligible to pursue their education in the school up to class XII [Science Stream] failing which full Scholarship amount received by the girl will be recovered at the time of issue of Transfer Certificate.**

RESERVATION : As per Government of Karnataka Roster Orders. Two seats each are reserved for candidates from Kittur Hobli and Defence Personnel Category. And also Girls with National Bravery Awardee, as per rules 3 seats are reserved. **[National Bravery Award, Caste and Category Certificate should be attached.]**

INTERVIEW : Only candidates who qualify in the written test will be called for interview as per order of merit in written test and availability of vacancies. Interview will be held at Kittur only. The interview would comprise the following :-

[a] Physical Fitness Test : It includes 1 km Run, Horizontal & Vertical Jump to attain qualifying standards, **[b] Medical Examination :** By Govt. Doctors only, **[c] Interview by the Selection Board :** The final order of merit will be prepared by adding the marks secured in the interview to the marks secured in the written entrance test.

Sale of Prospectus cum Application form : D.D. of **Rs. 2,000/-** for General Category candidates and **Rs. 1,600/-** for SC/ST candidates [by producing authentic Caste Certificate]. Sale of Prospectus cum Applications will be starts from October 10th 2019 to November 20th 2019. Prospectus cum Application form can also be obtained after 21st up to November 30th 2019 on additional payment of Rs. 500/- as Late Fee. Application can be collected by hand from the office on payment through D.D.

LAST DATE FOR SUBMITTING DULY FILLED APPLICATION FORM

30th November, 2019 (without penalty), and up to 10th December 2019 (with penalty).

Note : Prospectus cum Application form can also be downloaded from the School Website www.kittursainikschool.org and duly filled and submitted along with DD, value as above in favour of **“Principal, KRCRSG, Kittur”** payable at Kittur branches of Syndicate / Canara / SBI. For online payment please visit our School Website : www.kittursainikschool.org

ADMISSION ON FULL FEE PAYMENT SCHEME : The candidates who are low in the order of merit [written test + interview] for admission to the School may be considered in case vacancies exist on Full Fee Payment (FFP) Scheme. Parents are requested to give their willingness in the application form for necessary consideration by the School. Conversion of Merit to FFP is NOT automatic; written request is mandatory.

SALIENT FEATURES

[A] International Education/Exchange Programme for Staff and Students : Under the Trilateral Memorandum of Understanding between College of Education, Saginaw Valley State University [SVSU], USA & Carrollton Public School, Michigan, USA including visit to USA by selected Staff as well as Students, and reciprocal visit by the staff as well as students of these USA based Institutions to Kittur on year to year basis : **Dr. David Cline, is the Co-ordinator - SVSU / KRCRSG Programme, University Center, Michigan - 48710, USA**

[B] Special Coaching Classes : Regular and rigorous coaching is organized for students appearing for JEE / NEET etc through experts in the field through **Educational Partnership with Hanchinmani Classes, Dharwad.**

[C] NCC Training : NCC Training is compulsory, **[D] Guides for Girls, [E] Horse Riding, Swimming and other sports activities including Yoga and Meditation / Prayer.**

NOTE : ■ School authority reserves the right to change the pattern of examination, admission criteria and contents of the question papers. ■ School is not responsible for non-receipt / delayed receipt of communications [Prospectus, Hall Tickets and Results etc]. ■ Hall Tickets will be sent by Ordinary Post only ■ Submission of filled Application form with self addressed envelop affixed with Rs. 5/- postal stamp is Compulsory. ■ Submission of Caste & Category, Kittur Hobli and Defence Certificates [attested photo copies] of the candidate, if applicable, shall be attached to the filled application form, failing which the candidate shall be considered under General Category. ■ Fees once paid / remitted will not be refunded under any circumstance. ■ False Income / Caste Certificate may lead to cancellation of candidature ■ Latest Caste / Category and other certificate have to be submitted.

Office Hours: School office functions between 9-00 A.M. to 1-30 P.M. and 3-00 P.M. to 5-30 P.M. From Tuesdays to Saturdays and between 9.30A.M. to 1.30P.M on Mondays.

Sd/-
Col R. S. Khatri [Retd]
Principal
K.R.C.R.S.G., KITTUR.

Sd/-
Dr. David Cline, Ph.D [USA]
Professor, College of Education
Saginaw Valley State University
University Centre, Michigan [U.S.A.]

Sd/-
Sri Mahantesh S. Koujalagi
8 Con, LBS [SBI], MLA
Member Secretary
K.R.C.M.C., KITTUR.

Sd/-
Dr. Mahendra S. Kanthi,
Ph.D [USA]
Chairman
K.R.C.M.C., KITTUR.

Do you know these logos?

Madame Tussauds
DELHI

Meet Iconic Celebrities
At The World's Most Famous Wax Attraction
BRING A CUT-OUT OR A
PICTURE OF THIS AD & GET **50% OFF**

₹960

SPECIAL OFFER

₹480

EXP50

Address: Madame Tussauds Delhi, Regal Building, 44, Connaught Place, New Delhi

T&C Apply

our vision. your trust.

A COMMITMENT TO HEALTH & HYGIENE

MAHAGUN
MANTRA
Sector-10,
Greater Noida (West)

the yellow chilli

IME Group
of Colleges
Sahibabad (NCR) Ghaziabad (INDIA)

To book your ad
anywhere in India
98917 99922
We deals in:
Newspaper, Magazine, Radio,
Digital, Electronic, Social Media

शुद्ध आहार स्वस्थ परिवार
For Details Contact:
Ph.: 9515115417, 9811085817
ahaarconsumer@gmail.com

Answer these simple
questions based on the
surrounding logos and
win exciting vouchers*
from
The Yellow Chilli
Restaurant or
couple passes to
Madame Tussauds!
1. Name the chain of restaurant run by
a famous celebrity chef?
2. How many footwear brands logo are
present?
3. Name the famous chain of wax
museum which is now open in Delhi?
Tell us which among these is your
favourite logo and why?
Send your answers to
doyouknowtheselogos@gmail.com
*T&C's Apply

360° Advertising Solutions
PRINT • OUTDOOR
• ELECTRONIC • DIGITAL
• EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS
www.graphisads.com
ga@graphisads.com

MAHAGUN
MYWOODS
Sector-16 C
Greater Noida (West)

SKA Metro Villé
Innovational Construction Technology With An Eco-Boost Metro Connectivity

For EVERY step of LIFE!
Diabetes/Ortho
friendly footwear
For Trade Enquiry:
Ph.: 806087822, 7042525121
9990538012
email:anoop.fuzion@gmail.com
www.medifeet.co.in

IIHS
Indirapuram Institute
of Higher Studies
Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014
Ph.: 0120-2607101/02 www.theihs.com

Lakhani
VARDAAN
कल.. आज.. और हमेशा

Grey Ion
Cosmetics
Available at
Flipkart snapdeal
paytm amazon
SHOPCLUES
voonik
Contact:- 9871948201

www.arihantbuildcon.com

MEMBER OF
CREDAI

LUXURY IN YOUR REACH
Presenting a luxurious lifestyle

Actual Show
Flats Ready

Exclusively Free Offers:

Car Parking | Club Membership | Lease Rent | EEC | View PLC

Renowned
educational institutes
in proximity

Easy connectivity
to Noida, Greater Noida
and NH-24

Situated across 130 meter wide
Noida-Greater Noida
link road

Only 4 units Per floor
with two lift

130 meter away
from the proposed
metro station

ARIHANT
ABODE
2,3 BHK HOMES, GREATER NOIDA (W)

2 BHK
₹28.98LAKHS*
(All Inclusive)

3 BHK
₹33.23LAKHS*
(All Inclusive)

Construction In Full Swing
ACTUAL IMAGE

Privileges Include:

• Elevated clubhouse and swimming pool • Double height
entry of towers • Construction in full swing by Mivan
technology • 1% GST • Designer landscaping
• Avail benefits of 2.67 Lakhs* under PMAY

Exclusively Marketed by:
PROPSHOP
THE WAY TO FULFILL YOUR DREAMS...
RERA No.: UPRERAAGT10129

PS 56677

7676 888 000

HOUSING LOAN PARTNER:
HDFC HOME LOANS AXIS BANK
PROJECT FUNDED BY:
HDFC Ltd.

This advertisement is not a legal offering & does not form a part of any agreement or legal binding on part of the company. The images, designs, features, plans, areas, specifications, infrastructure etc., are illustrative, tentative and indicative only and the company reserves all rights to withdraw, vary, modify and amend all/any of these without any notice. 1 acre=4840 square yards or 4046.873 square metres. 1 square metre=10.76 square feet. *T&C apply. *Conditions Apply

epaper.indianexpress.com

TOP OF THE WORLD



The fire on the oil tanker. Reuters

SOUTH KOREA
Huge blast on oil tanker, 18 people injured

Seoul: A huge blast on an oil tanker in a South Korean port Saturday sparked a raging fire that spread to a nearby vessel, leaving 18 people injured, authorities said. A ball of fire shot up high above the ship and thick black smoke billowed into the air, dramatic images showed. Firefighters struggled to contain the blaze and prevent it spreading, shooting streams of water up onto the deck from beside the vessel in the southeast port of Ulsan.

UK
Boris faces probe for links to businesswoman

London: Authorities in London have referred Prime Minister Boris Johnson to a police complaints body to see if he should face a criminal investigation over links to an American businesswoman who allegedly received favourable treatment because of her friendship with him during his time as mayor. The Greater London Authority recorded what it called a "conduct matter" against Johnson. The Independent Office for Police Conduct will consider if there are grounds to investigate him for misconduct in public office.

EGYPT
Fresh protests mostly thwarted by tight security

Cairo: Egyptian authorities lifted Saturday some tight security measures in the capital, Cairo, a day after they sealed off the main square and downtown thoroughfares to thwart a possible protest against the country's president. The measures were part of a harsh security clampdown following rare demonstrations in several cities last week-end, all of which were broken up by police. Calls for fresh protests on Friday were largely stifled by the deployment of thousands of police in Cairo's streets, but there was a small protest on el-Waraq island.

ESCALATION OF IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY

Democrats issue subpoena to Pompeo; Trump's envoy to Ukraine steps down

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 28

HOUSE DEMOCRATS, moving quickly to escalate their impeachment inquiry into President Trump, subpoenaed Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday, demanding that he promptly produce a tranche of documents and a slate of witnesses that could shed light on the president's attempts to pressure Ukraine to help tarnish a leading political rival.

The move came even as Kurt D Volker, the State Department's special envoy for Ukraine, abruptly resigned his post the same day. Volker offered no public explanation, but a person informed about his decision said he concluded that it was impossible to be effective in his assignment given the developments of recent days.

The subpoena and demands for depositions were the first major investigative actions the House has taken since it launched impeachment proceedings this week in light of revelations that Trump pushed President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine to investigate Joseph R Biden Jr, a contender for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination, possibly using United States aid as leverage.

The committees announced the subpoena after the Trump administration missed a Thursday deadline to provide documents and information about contacts with Ukrainian officials, as well as a July 25



(Top) Ex-envoy to Ukraine Kurt Volker; US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at a United Nations meeting.

telephone call between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy.

That call is central to the impeachment investigation that Nancy Pelosi, the speaker of the Democratic-led House, announced this week.

The impeachment inquiry has cast a new pall over Trump's presidency just months after he emerged from the shadow cast by Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into whether he colluded with Russia in the 2016 election.

Trump has reacted furiously to the impeachment inquiry, arguing he did nothing wrong, and accusing Democrats of launching a politically motivated "witch hunt."

The House Intelligence Committee told lawmakers to be ready to participate in a Ukraine-related public hearing next week, and it scheduled a private briefing for next Friday with Michael Atkinson, the intelligence community inspector



EXPLAINED

Drawing in moderates

DEMOCRATIC lawmakers who showed little interest in earlier talk of impeachment are now on board with the motion. These lawmakers, who are from "swing" seats that are split down the middle politically, say the whistleblower complaint and Trump's call transcript will make it easy for them to sell the motion to their voters. This is a key reason why the motion is seeing more support that before and why it is being taken forward so rapidly.

Everything is real time," said Representative Mike Quigley, Democrat of Illinois and a member of Intelligence Committee, which has assumed investigative lead. "You don't sit back and contemplate the future when you are in the middle of it."

Much of the House's investigative work is expected to focus on corroborating the whistleblower complaint from a CIA officer, which accused Trump of abusing the power of his office to pressure the Ukrainian government into investigating a leading political rival and then trying to cover it up.

The subpoena demands a full transcript of the July call between Trump and Zelenskiy, a list of any State Department officials who listened to or received a readout of the call, and any records created by the department in relation to it.

At least 3 dead as Afghans turn out for presidential election amid violence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KABUL, SEPTEMBER 28

AFGHANS VOTED in presidential elections amid tight security Saturday, even as insurgents attacked polling centres in a series of blasts and clashes that left at least two people dead.

The first-round vote marks the culmination of a bloody election campaign that despite a large field of candidates is seen as a close race between President Ashraf Ghani and his bitter rival Abdullah Abdullah, the country's chief executive.

Wary authorities placed an uneasy Kabul under partial lockdown, flooding streets with troops and banning trucks from entering the city. Compared to previous elections, the initial toll appeared relatively light, though authorities provided little information about reported blasts and ongoing armed clashes.

A security official who requested anonymity told AFP that two civilians had been killed and 27 wounded in Taliban bombings and mortar attacks at polling centres across the country.

Ghani, having voted at a Kabul high school, said the most important issue was finding a



An Afghan woman after casting her vote in Kabul

leader with a mandate to bring peace to the war-torn nation.

"Our roadmap (for peace) is ready, I want the people to give us permission and legitimacy so that we pursue peace," said Ghani, who is seeking a second term.

Observers from the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission said turnout appeared to be low, especially among women.

Still, many voters braved insurgent attacks and long queues to cast a ballot. "I know there are security threats but bombs and attacks have become part of our everyday lives," 55-year-old Mohiuddin, who only gave one name, told AFP.

Can't provoke Beijing on South China Sea, says Malaysia PM

REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 28

MALAYSIA DOES not want to take a confrontational stance towards China over the disputed South China Sea and Beijing's alleged mistreatment of its minority Uighur Muslims, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said in an interview published on Saturday.

Malaysia is too small to face up to the Asian powerhouse, even though Chinese ships surveying its waters for oil and gas in South China Sea do so without permission, he told an online news service during a visit to New York this week.

"We watch what they are doing, we report what they are doing, but we do not chase them away or try to be aggressive," Mahathir told BenarNews here.

"The Malay states have existed near China for the past 2,000 years. We have survived because we know how to conduct ourselves. We don't go around trying to be aggressive when we don't have the capacity, so we use other means."

He said that in the past Malaysia used to send to China "gold and silver flowers every year as a symbol of our being practically, well, subservient to them".

AFTER CLIMBING FRANKFURT SKYSCRAPER

FRENCH 'SPIDERMAN' ARRESTED IN GERMANY

Alain Robert, dubbed the French "Spiderman" for his exploits in climbing buildings around the world, was arrested Saturday in Frankfurt after scaling the 'Skyper' tower, an AFP journalist reported. Robert, 57, reached the top of the 154-metre (500 feet), 42-floor building in just half an hour — without permission or safety equipment

CALLS TO PUTIN, SAUDI RESTRICTED



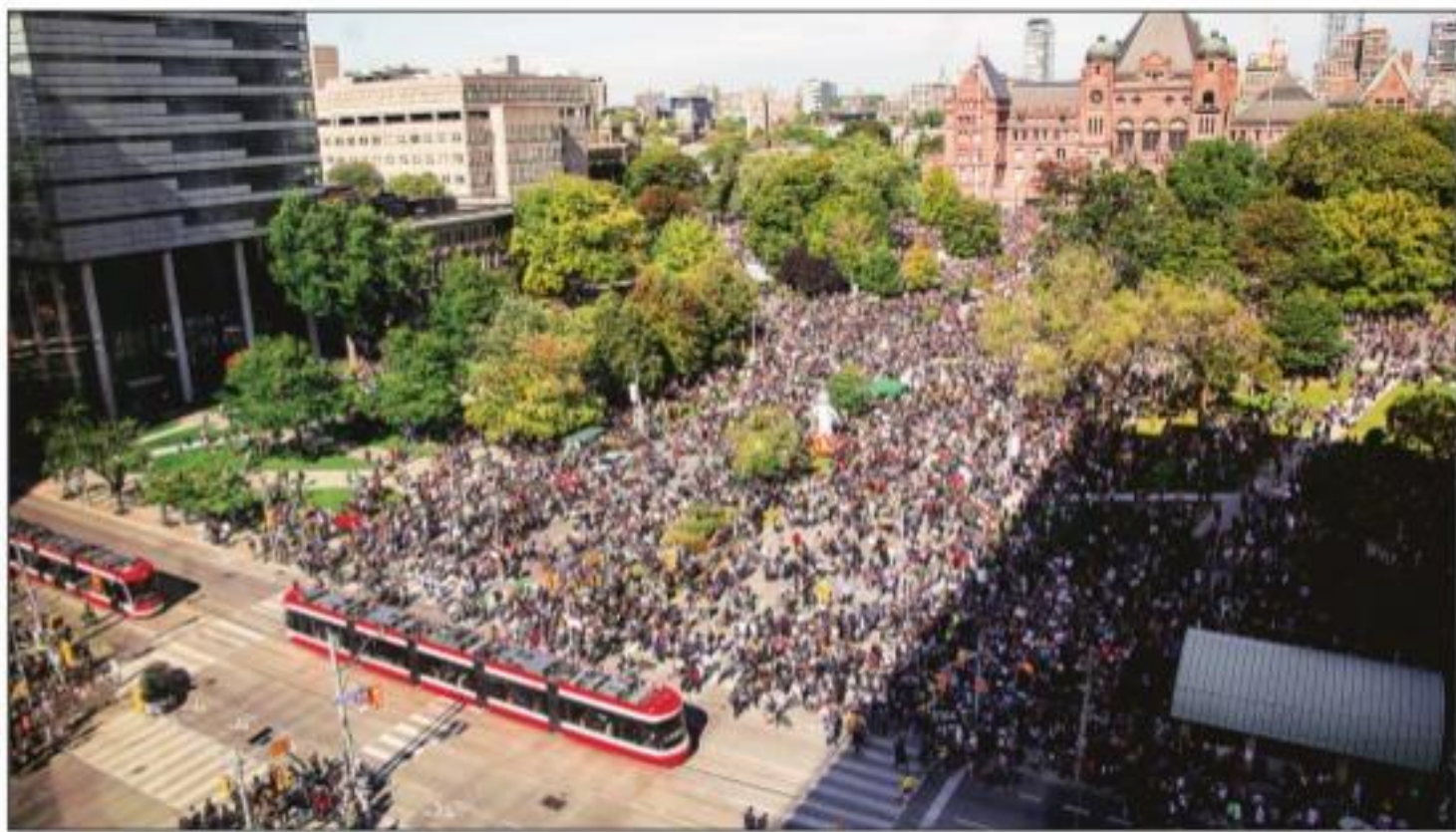
President Donald Trump with Vice President Mike Pence (left) in the White House on Friday. AP

THE WHITE HOUSE concealed transcripts of calls between President Trump and foreign officials, including President Vladimir V Putin and the Saudi royal family, after embarrassing leaks of his conversations, said sources

OVER 300 FORMER officials from US security agencies, including a one-time deputy secretary of state, on Friday endorsed the congressional impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump

DONALD TRUMP TOLD two Russian officials in a 2017 meeting that he was not concerned about Moscow's meddling in the US election, which prompted officials to limit access to the remarks, the Washington Post reported on Friday

US RELATIONS WITH the rest of the world must be based solely on national interest, the officials wrote in a statement. Any other considerations "sends a message to leaders around the world that America's foreign policy can be dangerously corrupted"



CLIMATE STRIKES, CANADA EDITION

People take part in a climate change strike in Toronto, Canada. Reuters

Captured thousands of Saudi troops in attack on border, claim Houthis

MAHER CHMAYTELLI

DUBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

YEMEN'S HOUTHJI movement said on Saturday it had carried out a major attack near the border with the southern Saudi region of Najran and captured many troops and vehicles, but there was no immediate confirmation from Saudi Arabian authorities.

The Houthis' military spokesman said in a statement

three "enemy military brigades had fallen" in the attack, which he said was launched 72 hours ago in the vicinity of Najran and was supported by the group's drone, missile and air defence units.

Houthi-run Al Masirah TV quoted the spokesman as saying the movement had captured "thousands" of enemy troops, including many officers and soldiers of the Saudi army, as well as hundreds of armoured vehicles.

The spokesman for a Saudi-

led military coalition that has been battling the Houthi group for over four years in Yemen did not immediately respond.

Reuters could not independently verify the claim.

"Operation 'Victory from God' is the largest military one since the brutal aggression began. The enemy suffered heavy losses ... and wide swathes of territory were liberated in only a few days," Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdul-Salam tweeted. REUTERS

'WHAT YOU DID WAS FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR MOTHER AND THE FUTURE... IT'S THE SAME FOR ME'

A father-son split on Hong Kong protests shows city's generational divide

AMY QIN

HONG KONG, SEPTEMBER 28

WONG YUE-KUI watched with dismay as a live feed on television showed anti-government protesters peacefully occupying an airport terminal in his city, Hong Kong. This is not going to end well, he thought.

Then he saw his son, Kenny, a 38-year-old insurance agent, among the black-clad demonstrators. For weeks, he had been arguing with him in the hope that he would step back from the increasingly confrontational protests.

Wong, 65, a bald, tough-look-

ing man, had told his son that it was useless and foolish to challenge China's ruling Communist Party and the party's handpicked local officials.

He himself had fled the mainland nearly half a century ago, swimming for hours to Hong Kong after his father died while being politically persecuted by the Communists.

"Only politics can solve political problems," said Wong, who runs a cellphone accessories stall at a local market. "We ordinary people can't solve these problems on our own."

Many in Wong's generation had fled the mainland during the



Kenny Wong regularly joins protests in what he sees as a fight for his son's future. His father objects. NYT

excesses of the Mao Zedong era and found stability and a path

out of poverty in Hong Kong. The memory of political turmoil and

China's startling emergence in recent decades as an economic juggernaut have served as reminders that learning to get along with an increasingly powerful and resilient Communist Party is key to survival.

But others, like his son, Kenny, see the party's encroachment on Hong Kong's affairs in recent years as a threat to cherished political freedoms unseen on the mainland. Last month, Wong sent his son a cellphone video of a fight between a group of protesters and pro-government supporters, and urged him to stay home.

Kenny responded: "I wish

you would remember the reason why you risked your life to come to Hong Kong back then."

Life is different now, his father explained; he was poor back then. "But you are in a different place," he said. "You have your own family, a child. Think about it carefully." His message was clear: they have more to lose now.

For his son, that wasn't enough of a reason to stand down. "What you did was for the sake of your mother and the future," Kenny said. "It's the same for me. I'm thinking about my son and the future."

Wong's son, Kenny, was in his early twenties when he began to

grow concerned over Beijing's influence. Protests had erupted in 2003 over the city's attempt to impose national security laws.

Later, when hordes of mainland travelers swept through the city to empty its shelves of baby milk powder and vaccines because of safety scandals in China, his anxiety grew.

Unlike his father, though, his feelings about the mainland have not changed with China's rapid economic development.

"You can't judge a place by money alone," Kenny said at a recent interview at a cafe in the city's financial district. "There also needs to be freedom."

Conscious of their already-strained relationship, the father and son have sought to avoid talking about the protests. Wong often grumbles that Hong Kong's problem is a lack of patriotic education; children grow up without learning to be proud of all that China has achieved.

On that point, Kenny is in surprising agreement with his father. He referred in a separate interview to the Chinese term for patriotic — ai guo — which means, literally, "love country."

"I can get behind loving the country," he said, "but I cannot love the party." NYT

28 ECONOMY

ALSO ASKED TO SUBMIT ROAD MAP FOR THE NEXT FOUR QUARTERS

FM sets Oct 15 deadline for central PSUs to clear overdue payments

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE GOVERNMENT has set October 15 as the deadline for central public sector undertakings (PSUs) to clear overdue payments to vendors and pushed them to meet their planned capital expenditure — or capex — on time. The Centre expects 244 public sector companies to make nearly Rs 4 lakh crore of capital expenditure in the current financial year.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who reviewed capital spending programmes with heads of 32 maharatna and navratna central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) on Saturday, said state-owned companies have been asked to front-load investment for the second half of the current fiscal.

CPSEs have been asked to submit a road map for the next four quarters by October 15, she said after the meeting. "It was decided that they will clear all pending dues by October 15 and by October 15 they will have a portal

EXPLAINED Plan is to make CPSEs 'third major source' of revenue

BY PUSHING CPSEs to clear outstanding dues to vendors by October 15 and meet their capex targets for the current fiscal, the Centre aims to give a shot in the arm to the slowing economy — with growth having fallen to a 25-quarter low in April-June this fiscal.

As per a Finance Ministry statement issued on Saturday, the government "wants the CPSEs to double their contribution" to the GDP and be the "third major source" of revenue for the government.

through which all dealers and contractors shall start monitoring their payment," Sitharaman said.

"Meeting (will be held) with the RBI and the Finance Secretary and selected number of CPSEs to talk about why bank guarantees are becoming a big hitch or hurdle in government paying up the 75 per cent post arbitration awards. If that is the case, I want RBI's help also to sit with Finance

Secretary and sort this out," she added.

Also, CPSEs have been asked to detail the lifespan of arbitrations that lock payments after disputes with vendors and contractors, the FM said.

"From the government's side, every attempt to get every payment out to those to whom it belongs is almost complete," she stressed.

The government is pushing ministries, departments and CPSEs to meet their capital expenditure in the next two quarters, as it seeks to spur economic growth which has fallen to a 25 quarter low of 5 per cent in April-June.

Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar said 34 central PSUs have already spent Rs 48,077 crore till August and have delayed spending of another Rs 50,159 crore till December 2019.

An additional Rs 54,700 crore would be spent in the upcoming January-March quarter. The expenditure plan is on track and companies have expressed their willingness to meet the target set for the current fiscal, he said.

The participating CPSEs presented their capex till August 2019 to the Finance Minister and explained their plans for the next two quarters.

For example, ONGC has a capex plan of Rs 32,921 crore for 2019-20. Its capex till August 2019 was Rs 8,777 crore, which was 26.66 per cent of the total planned capex for the fiscal. Indian Oil Corporation has a capex plan of Rs

25,083 crore, of which Rs 8,173 crore (32 per cent) has been spent. NTPC has made capex of Rs 8,490 crore (42 per cent), out of a plan of Rs 20,000 crore.

Expenditure Secretary Girish Chandra Murmu said capex of all the 244 PSUs will be about Rs 4 lakh crore for the current fiscal, which could also go up depending on the requirement.

Efforts are being made so that investment is on track and there is no liquidity crunch, he added.

The government also asked the public sector firms to check why nearly Rs 60,000 crore worth of purchases were made outside the GeM portal (Government-e-Marketplace).

"Government wants the CPSEs to double their contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) and be the 'third major source' of revenue for the Centre after direct and indirect taxes. CPSEs must make efforts to reduce the country's imports bill and expanding India's global strategic reach by 2022," the Finance Ministry said in a separate statement.

INTERVIEW: SECRETARY TO DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & IT, KERALA

'Trying to get non-resident HNIs to invest directly in startups based out of Kerala'

EDUCATIONAL-TECH startup Byju's may have a Kerala-born founder in Byju Raveendran but the company — valued at around \$6 billion — is based out of Bengaluru. This is one of the concerns that the Kerala government faced when it came to entrepreneurship — while in the early stage, the companies would be nurtured in the state, eventually the search for better access to funds would lead them out to Bengaluru or Mumbai. Speaking with PRANAV MUKUL on the sidelines of Huddle Kerala event in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala's Secretary to Chief Minister and Secretary to the Department of Electronics & IT M SIVASANKARAN said that the state government set up a fund of funds to provide better financing options to home-grown startups. Going ahead, he said, the state is also planning to tap high-net worth individuals in the Middle East, the US and Europe to invest in various projects in Kerala, including in startups. Edited excerpts:

What concerns, specific to Kerala, did the state government face in its attempt to boost the startup ecosystem?

Earlier, we used to have a large number of startups coming from educational institutes. The model that we had was that we would have a touch point in every professional college — we started with tech colleges and extended to arts and science colleges. A student who has an idea would come to IED (innovation, entrepreneurship development) cell and they would assess whether the idea is worth pursuing. They would take to the next level, some evaluation



M Sivasankaran

would happen and they would take it to state level where some tie-up would happen. But we realised that the students perse will not be able to run in a sustained way. So, the first challenge that we had was to how to change this IED cell-oriented, student-dominated startups to more serious and sustainable startups. We started working with companies and asked them to incubate startups.

Were there issues relating to fundraising as well?

When startups became of a particular size, they needed to have funds to grow. This funding system here is very limited — banks, collaterals, etc. So companies moved to either Bengaluru or Mumbai to access the funding ecosystem. That we tried to solve by setting up a fund of funds, where government would invest X amount and the startup also invests X amount, and so 2X amount is available. State government initially gave Rs 15 crore and we had two Sebi-accredited funds that brought in an equal amount of money. So put together a corpus of Rs 30 crore was set up in 2017-18 and this money was sup-

posed to be used in three years but got over in just a year. Now, we have started a second round where instead of Rs 15 crore, we will put in Rs 25 crore, and the funds are bringing in Rs 50 crore. This was approved in 2018-19.

Is that amount enough?

We are also trying to get high-net worth individuals (HNIs) to do this investment directly. That process has started and we are primarily looking at NRIs — in the Middle East, the US and Europe. The first interaction is happening in the Middle East from October 1-5 — the Chief Minister is taking a delegation there. For the US and Europe also, we have started the process and we will have this built up over the years.

Do you have a target amount in mind that you hope to raise from HNIs abroad?

There was a proposal that overseas non-resident Keralites can put together a corpus and invest in specific projects. These specific projects will be discussed with the Chief Minister's delegation. There's a semi-high speed rail project called Silverline, which is a Rs 55,000-crore project. These kind of projects will be showcased. To what extent will they be able to invest is not known but these are big projects. We will also tell them that the deposit of non-resident Keralites in Indian banks amounts to Rs 42,000 crore. If we use 10 per cent of that — Rs 4,200 crore — to be invested in startups over a period of time, it is a big amount. How to enable them to work on that is what we are trying to do.

(The correspondent was in Thiruvananthapuram at the invite of Kerala Startup Mission)

Lakshmi Vilas Bank under PCA framework

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has initiated Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) for Chennai-based Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB), in the wake of high non-performing assets (NPAs) and low capital adequacy ratio. With the bank, which has a deposit base of Rs 28,980 crore, coming under PCA, the RBI is unlikely to approve the proposal for merger of the bank with Indiabulls Housing Finance in the near future.

PCA is a framework under which banks with weak financial metrics are put under watch for corrective steps by the RBI.

"The RBI, vide their letter dated September 27, 2019 has initiated PCA for Lakshmi Vilas Bank on account of high net NPAs, insufficient CRAR (capital to risk assets ratio) and CET 1, negative RoA (return on assets) for two consecutive years and high leverage," the bank said. This is based on the on-site inspection under the risk based supervision carried out for the

"The PCA is aimed at improving the performance of the bank and will not have any adverse impact on the normal day-to-day operations of the bank including acceptance or repayment of deposits in the normal course"

LAKSHMI VILAS BANK

year ended March 31, 2019, it said. The bank's managing director, Parthasarathi Mukherjee, had resigned in August citing personal reasons.

According to the bank's Annual Report for 2018-19, many accounts have slipped into NPAs from different segments including corporate, MSME and retail. The total slippage during FY18-19 was to the tune of Rs 1,412 crore. Gross NPAs stood at Rs 3,358.99 crore as of March 2019 while the net NPA was Rs 1,506.30 crore, against which a provision of Rs 1,785.27 crore has been made.

In percentage terms, the gross NPAs were 15.30 per cent of the advances. The bank made a loss of Rs 894 crore in fiscal 2018-19 and Rs 237 crore in the June quarter of 2019-20.

Despite the good perform-

ance under recovery (Rs 747 crore), the huge slippage of accounts to NPAs overshadowed the recovery performance. Majority of the NPAs are in the corporate segment and some of the accounts from the corporate segment are under reference to the NCLT. "Hence, recovery was difficult due to moratorium in the accounts," it said.

When a bank comes under PCA, it will have to launch a special drive to reduce the stock of NPAs and contain generation of fresh NPAs. It will also not be allowed to enter into new lines of business. The RBI will also impose restrictions on the bank on borrowings from the interbank market. The RBI had put around 12 banks under the PCA framework in 2017-18 due to high NPA levels.

"The RBI has also advised the

bank on the restrictions put in place and the actions to be taken by the bank, which the bank has taken note of for necessary compliance, with progress to be reported on a monthly basis to the RBI," the bank said.

"PCA is aimed at improving the performance of the bank and will not have any adverse impact on the normal day-to-day operations of the bank including acceptance or repayment of deposits in the normal course," the bank said.

In April, Lakshmi Vilas Bank had announced its merger with Indiabulls Housing Finance in a share-swap deal, with an intent to create an entity with larger capital base and wider geographical reach. The Competition Commission of India had already approved the merger. However, the RBI has not yet given the green signal for the merger.

The bank's gross advances as on June 30, 2019 were to the tune of Rs 20,556 crore with net interest income at Rs 123 crore. Total deposits were pegged at Rs 28,980 crore.

As of June 2019, the bank's operations are spread over a

network of 569 branches (includes 7 banking branches, one satellite branch) and 5 extension counters with pan India presence, supervised by 7 Regional Offices.

Lakshmi Vilas Bank was founded in 1926 by a group of seven businessmen in Karur under the leadership of VSN Ramalinga Chettiar. While BK Manjunath is the non-executive Chairman of the bank, the RBI has two nominees on the board — Suwendu Pati and Rajnish Kumar.

The Economic Offences Wing of the Delhi police has registered a first information report (FIR) against Lakshmi Vilas Bank, its directors and other unknown persons on a complaint made by Religare Finvest Ltd (RFL) regarding "adjustment" of Rs 794 crore deposit loan.

"During the financial year 2017-18, the bank had adjusted deposit loans aggregating to Rs 794 crore, extended to RHC Holding Pvt Ltd and Ranchem Pvt Limited, group companies of Religare Finvest against RFL's deposits," the bank said in a stock exchange filing on Friday.

Forex reserves decline by \$388 mn to \$428.57 bn

India's forex reserves declined by \$388 million to \$428.57 billion for the week ended September 20 due to a slide in core currency and gold assets, the Reserve Bank said on Friday



\$428.960 bn

Overall reserves in previous reporting week, having declined by \$649 million

\$430.572 bn

Life-time high of forex reserves, reached in August

\$396.670 bn

Value of foreign currency assets, a major component of overall reserves, during week to September 20, having declined by \$125 million

\$27.843 bn

Value of gold reserves during week under review, having declined by \$259

million; second consecutive week of decline in gold value

\$1.435 bn

Special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), having increased by \$3 million during the week

\$3.623 bn

India's reserve position with the IMF, having declined by \$6 million

EXPRESSED IN US dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and the yen held in the foreign exchange reserves

BOEING FLIES INTO TROUBLE AGAIN

FAA requires inspections for cracks on some 737 NG planes

DAVID SHEPARDSON
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 28

THE US Federal Aviation Administration late on Friday said it would require operators of some Boeing 737 NG jetliners to conduct inspections for structural cracks and make repairs as needed following the discovery of cracks on a small number of planes.

The FAA said Boeing notified it of the issue "after it discovered the cracks while conducting modifications on a heavily used aircraft." Subsequent inspections "un-

FAILURE OF KEY PART COULD BE VERY RISKY

■ The FAA said Boeing notified it of the issue "after it discovered the cracks while conducting modifications on a heavily used aircraft"

■ Subsequent inspections "uncovered similar cracks in a small number of additional planes"

ered similar cracks in a small number of additional planes."

■ Boeing said on Friday it has been in contact with 737 NG operators about a cracking issue, but added that "no in-service issues have been reported"

■ The 737 NG was started in 1997 and is the third generation version of the Boeing airplane

Boeing said on Friday it has been in contact with 737 NG operators

about a cracking issue, but added that "no in-service issues have been reported."

Neither the FAA nor Boeing immediately said how many planes were impacted by the required inspections.

The 737 NG, or Next Generation, was introduced in 1997 and is the third generation version of the best-selling Boeing airplane. The 737 MAX, which was grounded in March after two fatal crashes in five months, is not affected by this issue, Boeing said.

The FAA said it would ask operators of the NG to "report their findings to the agency immedi-

ately" after completing inspections. Boeing said "over the coming days, we will work closely with our customers to implement a recommended inspection plan for certain airplanes in the fleet."

KOMO News reported on Friday the issue involved cracked "pickle forks" in some 737 NG jets. The pickle fork attaches the plane's fuselage, or body, to the wing structure and manages forces. A failure of the part in flight could pose a serious risk. KOMO said workers found a severely cracked pickle fork on a Boeing 737NG earlier this month. **REUTERS**

RESULTS CORNER

HINDUSTAN SHIPYARD POSTS PROFIT

Visakhapatnam: State-run Hindustan Shipyard Limited has achieved an operating profit of Rs 68.08 crore and profit after tax of Rs 36.23 crore during fiscal 2018-19, Chairman and Managing Director and Rear-Admiral (Retd) LV Sarat Babu said on Saturday. **PTI**

According to the plan, 2.3 per cent of the debt exposure across each category of facility will be converted into equity

27,527 crore. The company's largest borrowing was through non-convertible debentures, including masala bonds, to the tune of Rs 41,431 crore.

The company's total assets stood at Rs 89,476 crore, along with Rs 1,752 crore in cash and investments. DHFL's retail loan book stood at Rs 35,233 crore, while the wholesale book included Rs 18,078 crore in project and mortgage loans, Rs 11,967 crore in SRA loans and Rs 17,565 crore in other project loans.

The proposed resolution plan details the projected cashflows into three separate categories, including retail assets alongside project and mortgage loans with the payment of liabilities and repayment schedules mapped against these.

The company will pay secured lenders over nine years to 10 years with interest rates of 8.5 per cent in most cases, and 10 per cent in one case, nil in another. **FE**

POST-WEWORK DEBACLE

IPO market slams brakes on unprofitable firms

REUTERS
BOSTON, SEPTEMBER 28

COMPANIES MAKING their debut on the US stock market are getting a rough welcome, especially if they are losing money, casting a shadow over the calendar for initial public offerings for the rest of the year. The surprise postponement of the WeWork IPO has underscored how confidence is eroding in the market both for companies looking to raise capital and investors.

A more discerning market for initial public offerings continued to punish Peloton Interactive Inc

on Friday, a day after it began trading, as shares of the fitness startup fell 4 per cent to \$24.74. The company is now trading 15 per cent below its Wednesday IPO price.

In the past, public market investors have typically expected companies to become profitable within 18 months or so of an IPO. This timeline has been relaxed with money managers eager to add businesses with fast-growing revenue to their portfolios.

Recent deals suggest an uncertain economic outlook is pushing investors to be more selective about the loss-making companies they are willing to back.

